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Zhukov on Nevada Test Monitoring Experiment

PM111405 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

[Yuriy Zhukov "Viewpoint": "Putting the Question Point-Blank"]

[Text] So a group of Soviet and U.S. scientists has finally set out for the U.S. test site in Nevada to carry out the first joint experiment on U.S. territory in the sphere of monitoring [kontrol] the yield of nuclear tests. Similar experiments have been successfully carried out over a long period on the territory of the USSR, in the vicinity of Semipalatinsk, on the basis of the agreements signed back in May 1986 and in June 1987 by the U.S. National Resources Defense Council and the USSR Academy of Sciences. Now, albeit a year late because of the State Department's reluctance to issue visas, our scientists have been given the opportunity to check the suitability of their apparatus on U.S. territory as well.

The details of the upcoming experiment are as follows: In two areas of the state of Nevada, where the U.S. test site is located, a conventional explosion with a yield of 10 tonnes will be carried out 29 April and a second explosion with a yield of 15 tonnes will be carried out 30 April. The devices will be exploded at a depth of around 50 meters. The U.S. and Soviet scientists' seismographs, installed at various distances from the epicenters of the explosions, will register the strength of the seismic signals and ascertain the yields. This should demonstrate that the seismic apparatus can monitor [kontrolirovat] even the smallest underground tests—it is now practically impossible to conceal them.

The important joint initiative by Soviet and U.S. scientists has the same objective as that which forms the basis of the full-scale intergovernmental talks that began 9 November 1987 between the USSR and the United States on the question of nuclear tests. The participants in the talks were set the following goal—as a first step, agreement on effective verification [kontrol] measures which would at last make possible the ratification of the 1974 and 1976 Soviet-U.S. treaties on the limitation of underground nuclear weapon tests and on underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. They would then set about agreeing on further intermediate limitations on nuclear tests on the way to the ultimate goal—their total cessation. This program of actions was confirmed by the summit-level Soviet-U.S. Joint Statement adopted 10 December last year.

The second round of the talks is already under way in Geneva. In January official delegations from the USSR and the United States visited one another's nuclear test sites. Their visits, as the U.S. side stated on 19 February, serve as the "practical basis for planning and conducting a joint experiment in the monitoring [proverka] sphere." This entirely official experiment on an intergovernmental basis is to take place in the first half of this year. Soviet experts believe that it could be implemented without any further delay in May. It will make it possible to test both the seismic method of monitoring [kontrol] and the hydrodynamic method, which, it appears, the U.S. side prefers.

Continuing joint research by Soviet and U.S. scientists will, it seems to me, give substantial assistance to the Geneva talks participants. So it is difficult to see why their work, as THE NEW YORK TIMES asserted the other day, "has not been officially approved" by the U.S. Administration. To tell the truth, the world is tired of waiting for real progress finally to be made in the limitation and subsequent complete prohibition of nuclear tests.

Shafts of light are again penetrating the black clouds on the horizon. Let us hope that the research the Soviet and U.S. scientists will soon be conducting in Nevada will also help the participants in the interstate talks in Geneva to accelerate preparations for the official experiment, leading to the solution of the monitoring [kontrol] issue.

The peace-loving public, including that in the United States, cannot and will not tolerate any more delays in its solution. This is eloquently evidenced by the ever-increasing demonstrations which pose the question point-blank: When are the nuclear explosions at test sites finally going to end?

U.S. Arms Control Agency Head on Accords, SDI

PM071405 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 7 Apr 88 p 1

[TASS report: "On Route to a Treaty"]

[Text] Washington, 6 Apr—Major General William Burns, the new director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, expressed the hope of the possibility of concluding a new U.S.-Soviet treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive armaments by the end of the incumbent Washington administration's term of office.

"There is a great probability that we will elaborate a treaty on strategic offensive armaments by the end of this administration's term of office," Burns stated in an interview with NBC-TV. "I believe that it is possible to secure agreements. The treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles is a good example of this."

Burns spoke positively about the possibility of progress in preparing agreements in other spheres of arms control and disarmament.

At the same time, Burns asserted that there has been no fundamental change in the U.S. approach to the "Star Wars" problem. "We intend to continue this research program and determine the possibility for the strategic defense of the United States," he stated. Meanwhile, in the opinion of leading U.S. disarmament experts, the U.S. SDI threatens to "erode" previously concluded Soviet-U.S. accords and is complicating the preparation of a strategic offensive arms treaty.

International Lawyers Group Supports INF

LD101508 Moscow TASS in English 1043 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Stockholm April 10 TASS—A conference of the newly-formed organisation—the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA)—adopted at its conference here Saturday an appeal to the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

"Being convinced that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons are illegal and given our special responsibility to bring our professional skills to bear on the struggle against nuclear weapons, we will undertake a worldwide effort to mobilize lawyers, law teachers and judges toward that end.

"Therefore, we welcome the signing of the INF Treaty and hope that it will be ratified soon. We regard the treaty as the first step toward the ultimate goal of complete nuclear disarmament," the document says.

The appeal expresses the hope that an agreement on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic arsenals of the two countries will be reached at the upcoming Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Moscow.

The participants in the conference also adopted an appeal to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressing unreserved support for that organisation's activity to promote peace and security, and also to consolidate international legality. Simultaneously, the lawyers underscored their readiness to give all kind of assistance to the U.N. efforts in this direction.

Both appeals were signed on behalf of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms by its co-presidents Aleksandr Sukharev, USSR, Stig Gustafsson, Sweden, and Peter Weiss, U.S.A.

'Constructive Approach' on Human Rights Talks

LD071335 Moscow TASS in English 1242 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—"The discussion of human rights has been moved for the first time from the political level to the level of experts.

"The very fact of holding a round-table conference with the participation of experts arrests to the new constructive approach to this extremely sophisticated problem," Professor Veniamin Yakovlev, director of the All-Union Institute of Soviet Law at the National Ministry of Justice, has pointed out, assessing the meeting of Soviet and American experts on humanitarian issues held in Washington late in March.

Speaking at a briefing in the Soviet Foreign Ministry Press Centre today, he said that the professional discussion of these problems clearly showed that there existed an opportunity for exchanging experience accumulated, especially in what concerned legal guarantees of the rights and liberties of citizens.

"Frank informative dialogue is more valuable than reciprocal instructions which are not always sufficiently profound and professional in character."

Regrettably, Yakovlev said, there were attempts to introduce confrontation issues into the debates with the use of traditional methods.

The insufficiency of the legal basis for a professional analysis of problems made itself felt, too: the United States had not ratified major international legal pacts and covenants on human rights. This created difficulties for professional debate.

The Soviet researcher pointed out that the parties to the meeting, taking into account the positive and undoubtedly mutually useful character of the debates, came to the conclusion that it would be expedient to organise such discussions in the future as well with the participation of leading authorities on specific aspects of the human rights issue.

British Group Conducts Inspection of Exercises

LD111248 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1215 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, 11 Apr (TASS)—On 8 April the Government of Great Britain submitted a request to the Soviet Government to be allowed to conduct an inspection on the territory of the Ukraine and Moldavia in connection with the exercises being carried out there by Soviet troops, about which all the states that took part in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe were informed in February this year. With the document of the Stockholm conference and the interests of strengthening trust and security on the European Continent as a guide, this request was urgently examined and on 9 April a positive reply was given.

On 10 April a group of four people from Great Britain started an inspection of the area indicated in the request.

All the other states that are participants in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe were informed of the Soviet Union's reply.

Vasilyev Reviews Week's Major Events

PM111321 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[Gennadiy Vasilyev "International Review": "The World During the Week"]

[Text] Spring Flood [subhead]

Peace marches have spread over the countries and continents like a spring flood. Aldermaston, San Francisco, Duesseldorf, Dudelange, Bern—teletype tapes are full of the names of cities where the traditional mass demonstrations against the arms race and for peace and international security timed to coincide with the Easter vacations have been held.

A living chain almost 10 km long encircled the nuclear scientific research center at Aldermaston, the largest in Britain. The participants in a rally demanded the abandonment of the plans drawn up by the Conservative government to rearm the Trident submarines, which will increase the number of British nuclear warheads at a time when the USSR and the United States are starting to reduce them. Californian peace champions ended their 5-day march with a protest action outside the gates of the Lawrence Livermore Radiation Laboratory. Holding hands, they used their bodies to prevent access to the territory of the Pentagon's head center, where the latest types of strategic weapons are developed. "Ratify and implement the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles"; "Take radical disarmament measures"; "Cooperation among states with different social systems"—spring peace marches were held under these slogans in many FRG cities.

During my years working as a Soviet correspondent in foreign countries, I have repeatedly observed participants in antiwar demonstrations: in London's Trafalgar Square, in Washington's Lafayette Square, in New York's Union Square. Although I invariably felt profound respect for these people who place mankind's concerns above their own personal affairs, the worm of doubt would sometimes creep into my heart. What are the real results of these people's activities? Are their efforts not wasted? Because, despite antiwar protests and despite appeals to reason, the arms race continued and the governments of Western countries pursued their old course, appearing to take no notice of public demands.

Today, at a time when the millions-strong army of peace champions is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the start of the Easter marches, there can be no doubt that the efforts of those who during all these years have marched along roads beneath slogans of peace, lain in the path of trains of death, and seethed at mass rallies, calling a halt to the movement toward the nuclear abyss, have not been wasted. They have set millions of people to thinking and prompted them to act. They have become an important constituent part of the major changes in world public sentiments which have created favorable conditions for specific political decisions aimed at curbing and reversing the arms race.

Now that mankind is holding in its hands the first shoot of a nuclear-free world—the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles signed during the Washington summit meeting—everyone is concerned about this question: What next? First of all, in order to acquire binding force, the treaty must be ratified by the two countries' supreme legislative organs. The prospects for such a solution appear favorable today. The previous week saw the end of the first stage of the examination of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles on Capitol Hill—its discussion in three Senate committees: Foreign Relations, Armed Services, and Intelligence. Some 72 sessions were held in the space of 2 months. Despite desperate resistance from the treaty's opponents—the not unknown "hawks" Jesse Helms and Larry Pressler particularly distinguished themselves in this—they failed to carry any amendments to the treaty or provisos to the resolution on its ratification which would have "killed" the agreement. By an overwhelming majority of votes, the committees' members advocated the treaty in the form in which it was signed. The treaty is expected to be successfully ratified at the concluding stage of the hearings to be held in full Senate session at the end of April.

At present the U.S. Administration is firmly behind the treaty. This is testified, in particular, by a special brochure recently published by the State Department. Explaining the treaty's provisions, the State Department describes it as a "historic achievement," since the USSR and the United States have not only "arrived at an agreement on a real reduction in their nuclear arsenals" but also agreed to "eliminate an entire class of nuclear arms." The brochure points out that this circumstance, and also the fact that the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles is based on a carefully elaborated system of monitoring and verification of its fulfillment, open up the way to new agreements in the arms control sphere.

Indeed, the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles is important not only in itself but also because it is the first step to nuclear disarmament. It will fully justify its definition as historic only if followed by new agreements on the way to the great goal—creating a secure, nuclear-free world. A most important achievement in this matter can and must be a Soviet-U.S. agreement to halve their strategic offensive arms while observing the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972 and not to pull out of that treaty during the agreed term.

Questions connected with the conclusion of an important new agreement are actively being worked out in Geneva and were discussed in detail at a meeting of the leaders of the two countries' foreign policy departments. It was thought that it could be signed at the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Moscow in May-June this year. Recently, however, speeches by U.S. officials and U.S. press materials have increasingly frequently been voicing the opinion that it will not be possible to eliminate all unresolved questions by May. Does this reflect real difficulties in finding solutions to articles which have not yet been agreed upon, or is it a sign of a political game? In the BOSTON GLOBE's opinion, one of the chief reasons preventing progress at the talks is the Reagan administration's reluctance to abandon the SDI program, whose implementation would undermine progress on the way to nuclear disarmament. Another reason is the question of sea-launched cruise missiles which can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads. The United States does not wish to reach agreement on a ceiling for warheads for these missiles or for their production.

We believe that the prospect of concluding a Soviet-U.S. agreement on strategic offensive arms is perfectly realistic. The Soviet Union will continue to do everything possible to prepare and conclude this treaty.

The Soviet Union pursues a consistent, enterprising policy aimed at improving the international situation and strengthening peace in close cooperation with the other socialist countries. This is testified by the results of the working visit which Z. Messner, member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, made to the USSR this week. During his friendly meeting with M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and his talks with N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and other Soviet leaders, a wide range of questions pertaining to a restructuring of the economic mechanism and improving economic cooperation and of the two countries' joint actions in the international arena was examined. The profound coincidence of the fundamental interests of the Soviet Union and Poland and the unity of the two communist parties' views on urgent tasks of modern development were noted.

International relations nowadays present a surprisingly variegated and contradictory picture. Glimmers of realism and sensible decisions by Western politicians are accompanied by actions which accord neither with the demands of our time nor with the elementary norms of international law. For example, what the United States is now undertaking against Panama, a small Central American country, can only be called attacks in the spirit of the traditions of the "Wild West."

"Big Stick" Again [subhead]

You are amazed when you read reports on the measures being planned in heated debates behind the closed doors of the highest U.S. state organs to bring the Panamanians to their knees: to have a landing party carry out a raid and kidnap General Noriega, commander in chief of Panama's National Defense Force, to set up a headquarters for the pro-U.S. former President Delvalle behind a palisade of U.S. bayonets somewhere in the Panama Canal Zone, and to try once again to carry out a coup d'etat in Panama with CIA forces. It seems that military intervention could be undertaken at any moment. The U.S. helicopter carrier "Okinawa" has already arrived at Rodman naval base on Panama's Pacific coast. The transfer of a further 1,300 U.S. servicemen to the Panama Canal Zone has begun. And this is in addition to the 10,000 U.S. soldiers and officers permanently stationed there.

The point is that measures of the crudest economic and political pressure did not work. The attempts at the dollar suffocation of Panama, the foreign-inspired "strike" by champions of the extreme right-wing group of local capital—all this had the opposite effect to what Washington was counting on. The majority of Panamanians began still more resolutely supporting the National Defense Force, which holds progressive nationalist positions. U.S propaganda is evidenly counting on extremely naive people when it maintains that all this massive military-political pressure has been undertaken only to secure the resignation of Gen Noriega, whom a U.S. court has accused of complicity "in the drugs business." The true purpose of the present anti-Panamanian campaign is to secure in good time the political changes that Washington needs and, in the end, to wreck the fulfillment of the Panamanian-U.S. canal treaties, which provide for control over the interoceanic waterway which crosses this country's territory to be transferred to it by the year 2000.

No, the process of asserting in international relations the principles of equal rights, mutual respect, and recognition of each people's independence of choice, on which alone strong relations among states can be built in our age, is not proceeding easily or smoothly.

Way to Peace [subhead]

This week the world's attention was once again riveted on the events around Afghanistan. M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, had a meeting in Tashkent on 7 April. After exchanging opinions on the chief questions of the international situation and bilateral relations, the two countries' leaders declared that the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan will act in accordance with the statements published on 8 February 1988, which gave a new boost to the process of a political settlement of a very complex regional conflict and made it possible to place the talks on the plane of a practical solution. The CPSU Central Committee general secretary and the president of the Republic of Afghanistan believe that the last obstacles to the conclusion of agreements have been removed as the result of constructive cooperation among all parties to the settlement, and they advocate that they be signed without delay. The Afghan president hails the readiness of the USSR and the United States to act as guarantors of the agreements reached in Geneva. The Soviet Union and Afghanistan confirmed that, in the event of these agreements' being signed as soon as possible, the accord reached between Afghanistan and the USSR to the effect that the Soviet troops will be withdrawn within the period laid down in those agreements, starting 15 May 1988, will remain in force.

So, the process of a political settlement around Afghanistan has entered its final phase. The way to it was opened up by the considered, responsible decision adopted by the Soviet Union in agreement with the Afghan leadership to withdraw the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and by the policy of national reconciliation implemented by the Afghan Government. The question of the withdrawal of our troops from Afghanistan was raised as long ago as at the 27th CPSU Congress. It was an expression of our new political thinking and of loyalty to the traditions of good-neighborliness, benevolence, and mutual respect which originate from V.I. Lenin and the first Soviet-Afghan treaty of 1921. The policy of national reconciliation pursued by the Afghan Government makes it possible to settle the situation around Afghanistan, end the war and the fratricide, establish peace throughout the country's territory, and form a coalition government with the participation of all forces representing Afghan society, including those which currently oppose each other.

What will be Afghanistan's ultimate status? The Afghans themselves will determine this. The Soviet Union confirms its support for President Najibullah's statement on Afghanistan as an independent, nonaligned, neutral state. Here it proceeds from the premise that that country's territory or any part of it will never be used for purposes hostile to its neighbors, toward which Afghanistan will continue its policy of good-neighborliness and cooperation. The Soviet side supports the Afghan president's statement that Afghanistan's internal system will be founded on a multiparty system in the political sphere and on a mixed economy.

Reassuring news came out of Geneva at the end of the week: The Afghan-Pakistani talks are practically complete. All the documents constituting the so-called "Geneva package" and representing constituent parts of the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan are ready for signing. Confidence exists that these agreements will be signed.

'Repercussions' Panel on 'European Problems'

LD101048 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 7 Apr 88

["Repercussions" program, entitled "Peace to the European Home," moderated by Boris Aleksandrovich Kalyagin, political observer of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, with Aledsandr Yevgenyevich Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer; Yevgeniy Yevgenyevich Grigoryev, PRAVDA deputy chief editor; Viktor Pavlovich Karpov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Problems of Arms Limitation and Disarmament Administration; and Yuriy Pavlovich Ledentsov, head of an administration of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations]

[Excerpts] [Kalyagin] Hello, esteemed viewers! We meet with you once again in the "Repercussions" television studio here in Ostankino to answer the questions that are worrying you. Today we will be speaking about the state of affairs on our European Continent and Europe's future in light of the signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. We can look at subjects connected with further steps on the path of disarmament, the expansion of political contacts, and the development of trade, economic, and cultural links. We are also ready to answer any other questions you have that are connected one way or another with European problems.

Our typists are now taking down the first of the questions that are coming in from viewers, but while they are typing them out and sorting them by subject, I would like to put a few questions to the panel that were left over from the last edition of "Repercussions." I have already told you before, comrades, that we do look at all your questions. They do not get left aside. Some of them we use in our program "The World Today" and "International Panorama," and some that are connected with Europe, I put aside especially for today's program.

A number of viewers have expressed concern that when we signed the treaty eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, we left out of view the British and French nuclear weapons. They ask whether Britain and France have similar missiles; in other words, intermediate- and shorter-range ones. If the treaty is ratified, will the parity between the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries not be destroyed? This was asked, among others, by trade union official Andrey Vasilyevich Kozlov from Moscow, Engineer Bobrov, also from Moscow, and other comrades. I think that you could start, Viktor Pavlovich.

[Karpov] Okay. I think that the answer to that question is as follows: Sometimes we remain under the impression of certain ideas that we ourselves put forward and actively defend. At one time, starting with the talks in 1981 on intermediate-range systems in Europe, we made active efforts to prove the need for a comprehensive solution to that question; in other words, taking the British and French nuclear weapons into account. At that time, the view that a solution to the question of intermediate-range missiles could not be found without taking the British and French weapons into account took a firm place in our arguments. But if one analyzes in detail the correlation of nuclear forces in Europe, then one can see that the decision by the Soviet leadership—that of working for the conclusion of an agreement to eliminate the Soviet and U.S. intermediate- and shorter-range missiles in Europe—was completely justified from the viewpoint of taking into consideration the actual conditions for ensuring the security of the Soviet Union and its allies in Europe.

Britain and France do have missiles of similar range. France has 18 land-based missiles, and the remainder—in all, 172 missiles—are on submarines belonging to Britain and France. They are without doubt an awesome force, and we cannot simply cast them out of the reckoning. But at the same time, in the nuclear equation that we now have with NATO, both in Europe and the rest of the world, that is a quantity which, at the current stage of nuclear arms reduction, can for the time being be left aside. The United States now has approximately 13,500 strategic nuclear weapons alone, and the Soviet Union has about 10,000 nuclear weapons in strategic systems. That is not counting tactical systems. So in that equation, the most important role, of course, is that played by the correlation of nuclear, primarily strategic forces between the USSR and the United States. When the USSR and the United States reduce their strategic systems by 50 percent, the role and importance of the British and French nuclear potential will evidently have to be taken specifically into account, and talk about further nuclear arms reductions will have to take both the British and French nuclear forces into consideration.

[Kalyagin] Thank you. Here is another question that was raised earlier. It may be of a more specific nature, but I think it is of great interest: Pavel Nikolayevich (?Fichvarkin), a labor veteran and veteran of the Great Patriotic War from Moscow, asks: What is the obstacle to the establishment of good relations with Albania? Aleksandr Yevgenyevich, are you ready to answer?

[Bovin] Yes, I probably am. The question is: What is the obstacle? The obstacle is Tirana's position. It has been my impression that in the recent past, we have been testing the ground with a view to improving relations with Albania and restoring normal diplomatic relations. But so far the only answer coming from Tirana has been no, and one wonders what the reason is. The chief reason, to my mind, is more ideological even than political. The thing is that what dominates in Albania is the model of early socialism, so to speak, that took shape in our country in the 1930's with all the consequences of which we are well aware. Therefore, in Albania's view, there is probably only one country in the world which has true socialism: Albania itself. Formerly there were two—China and Albania—but later, so the Albanians said, China sold out to imperialism, leaving just Albania. In that system of coordinates we, of course, are not just revisionists; we are, so to speak, the center of world revisionism, and for that reason it is evidently completely impossible, from their point of view, to restore relations with us. They completely slam our restructuring, taking the stance that is is a further deepening of revisionism and a deviation from socialism. They very actively criticize the most varied aspects of our foreign policy. They are also slamming the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. And what they wrote about Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's recent visit to Yugoslavia was that it was an embrace between Khrushchevian and Yugoslav revisionism. That was how they described it.

Of course, Albania has become a completely different country in the 40 years that have passed since the war, but unfortunately it is still the poorest country in Europe. It's a very closed country. Formally it has relations with more than 100 other countries, but it is very difficult to go there, very difficult to leave, and it has few tourists. One interesting thing is that it is the only country in the world where all types of religion are completely banned. It is the only country in the world that does not have any foreign debt whatsoever, because Article 28 of the Albanian Constitution prohibits the government from borrowing money. It is the youngest country in Europe; more than half of the Albanians are below the age of 25.

That, roughly, is what there is to say about Albania, but I would like to repeat that although there have been all sorts of difficulties in our relations, we are now ready, within the framework of our dynamic and energetic foreign policy, to pursue an improvement in our relations with Albania, to restore diplomatic relations, and to solve the problems that remain unsolved. The question is held up, though, I repeat, by Tirana's position.

[Kalyagin] I think, though, there are some favorable symptoms to show that Albania is trying to emerge from the isolation that is has put itself into.

[Bovin] Yes, there are a few. Just recently, there was the Balkan...

[Kalyagin, interrupting] Yes, the conference in Belgrade.

[Bovin] There are other changes, too. For example, on 5 March when Stalin died, they always used to hold meetings with great pomp. But this year, for the first time in Albania's history, there was no such meeting, and there was nothing about it in the newspapers. Then there is another unique record that Albania holds. The 59th volume of the works of Enver Hoxha has just been published. I don't think any other leader of a socialist country has written such a quantity! But life changes, and we will hope, of course, that the situation will change.

[Kalyagin] Okay, here is the last of the questions that were raised previously. Comrade Savelev from Moscow asks: Will our troops leave the socialist countries where they are stationed?

[Grigoryev] I would say that logically speaking this stands to reason. Since the Warsaw Treaty countries are proposing—and this has just been stated again at the Warsaw Treaty Foreign Ministers Committee meeting in Sofia—that talks be held on substantial reductions of armed forces and armaments, then if such accords are reached, the reductions of armed forces and armaments will naturally extend probably to a certain part of the Soviet Armed Forces which are in the territory of a number of socialist countries in Europe as part of their duty as allies and under allied agreements. Aside from everything else, I would just like to remind Comrade Savelev that only recently we withdrew a number of units, missile units with shorter-range missiles, from the CSSR and the GDR after the Soviet U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter Range Missiles was signed. Now those units, those missiles, as we have seen, have arrived in certain areas in the Soviet Union where the missiles will be destroyed.

[Kalyagin] Right, well, quite a lot of fresh questions have come in, and I would like to put the following question to Yuriy Pavlovich, which was asked by Comrade Nikolayev from Inta in Komi ASSR: Do we intend to curtail sales of raw materials to foreign countries? A very topical question, I think.

[Ledentsov] Yes, a very topical one. If you take into account that Western Europe accounts for one-fifth of the Soviet Union's foreign trade, Soviet exports of raw materials, particularly crude oil and petroleum products, amount to 70-80 percent of the supplies to certain individual countries. This undoubtedly suits no one, in particular the Soviet side. The aim is to restructure Soviet exports with a view to increasing the proportion of machinery and equipment supplied. This proportion in the West European countries is now around 3 percent overall. In some countries, it is even as low as 1 percent, like Italy, for example; in others, it may reach 5-7 percent, like Finland. But the efforts of the Soviet economy, the efforts of foreign economic bodies, must without a doubt be aimed at ensuring that we cease being suppliers of raw materials. We have to restructure our economy to supply more highly-processed products abroad, first by switching from raw materials to semifinished products, then from semifinished to finished products. That is the direction that we greatly need to take, and a lot of work has yet to be done. There is some slight progress, namely an increase in our export of machinery and equipment. So I agree with the person who asked this question. This is a question that needs to be answered, and the Soviet side cannot remain satisfied with the situation.

[Kalyagin] Viktor Pavlovich, I see you've got a lot of questions that have come in, but there's one question I would like to ask you first. It has been expressed in various forms by many viewers: Didn't we start to withdraw our missiles from Czechoslovakia and the GDR too soon? After all, the Americans have not ratified the treaty. Will this not damage our defense capacity? That is asked by Tatyana Aleksandrovna Yermakova, a warehouse manager in Suvorov. And nurse Svetlana Sashina in Ulyanovsk says: Why was it so important for the Soviet Union to withdraw its intermediate-range missiles from Europe? Will this not damage our defensive might?

[Karpov] The concern about the security of our homeland is quite understandable. But I must say that we have now withdrawn from the GDR and Czechoslovakia only a small number of shorter-range missiles, that is, missiles with a range of 500-1,000 km, that were stationed there in response to the stationing of U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Europe.

We made this gesture to show our goodwill and to show that the USSR is serious about fulfilling the obligations it has undertaken for eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. These missiles are being taken onto USSR territory to the places where they will later be destroyed as a result of the implementation of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles.

I think now since the process of ratification of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles has proceeded quite a long way, one can say with confidence that the treaty will be ratified. At the end of this month, the U.S. Senate will begin discussing this treaty at its sessions and has already before it the report from the Foreign Affairs Committee summing up the results of the discussions in the Armed Forces Committee and the Intelligence Committee. All of these conclusions are positive—in favor of ratification. Experts on U.S. affairs calculate that, at the very most, 10 senators could vote against the treaty. There will be considerably more than the required two-thirds of the votes. So, on this score, one, apparently, need have no fear that the treaty will not come into force.

As far the overall question of intermediate-range missiles is concerned, our decision is based on a sober analysis, on an analysis that takes into account not only the purely quantitative figures on missiles but also considers what sort of missiles they are, where they are located, and what they are aimed at. The Pershing-2 missiles that will be eliminated—and there will not be a single such missile in Europe—are first-strike weapons. They are missiles targeted on vital centers of the USSR and are capable of striking within 8 to 10 minutes the targets they are fired at. They are weapons that represent the greatest threat from the point of view of our security. These weapons will be removed. This fact alone shows that the treaty is in accord with our interests and the interests of our security. Moreover, the elimination of a whole two classes of nuclear weapons in Europe is a stimulus for further progress along the path of reducing nuclear confrontation between the USSR and the United States in the first instance, and later of reducing the nuclear potentials of other powers, too. On this score, this is perhaps the start of the process that should lead to a nuclear-free world. As you know, a nuclear free world as the aim of our foreign policy was declared on 15 June 1986 in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement. We are consistently moving toward this aim and conducting our affairs to this end.

[Bovin] I would like to add that there is another aspect of this problem. By tradition everyone has the impression that the more missiles we have, the greater our security will be. At one time, within the framework of classical military thinking of the 19th century, this was true about cannons, for example, or tanks. But now the whole situation has changed fundamentally. This can be formulated as a paradox. The key to our security is to be found not only in Moscow but also in Washington, just as the key to U.S. security is to be found not only in Washington but also in Moscow.

That means there is no question that the more missiles you have, the greater security you will have. Security has become reciprocal. Therefore, only an agreement on reducing missiles can give this sought-after security. There has been a change in the reference point, if you like. But we very often still continue to think according to the old categories, and this gives rise to such questions which are, of course, very understandable from the psychological point of view. But, comrades, it is necessary to bear these very important considerations in mind.

[Grigoryev] I would like to add, further, that there has been a change in military doctrines and in the military's ideas about how to ensure the security of our country and of the whole socialist community. It is well known that a special Warsaw Treaty document was adopted last year in Berlin on this subject. As far as military doctrine is concerned, we have come to the principle of reasonable sufficiency; it is necessary to possess just as many weapons—and in this case obviously just as many missiles—as is sufficient to ensure the security of our country and our allies. I think that this must also be borne in mind.

[Karpov] From this point of view, from the point of view of the principle of sufficiency, the weapons we currently possess are more than sufficient. It is precisely for this reason that we set ourselves the aim of reaching agreement with the United States on reducing the strategic nuclear weapons of the USSR and the United States by half.

[Kalyagin] As we have now begun discussing questions of disarmament, I would like to recall that a summit meeting of NATO countries' leaders took place in Brussels in March.

[Begin video recording by Brussels correspondent Mazheyka] [Passage omitted on review of results achieved at NATO summit] Here one recalls the perspicacious forecast by the Brussels publication SOIR. The well-informed bourgeois newspaper asserted that in the coming period of the transfer of presidential power in the White House, or if there is a change of course by the new U.S. Administration, the role of leader of the NATO alliance will come into the secure hands of Margaret Thatcher. [end recording]

[Kalyagin] I find that last remark made by the Belgian newspaper SOIR rather interesting. Would anyone like to comment on it?

[Bovin] I have already written in IZVESTIYA that perhaps NATO is on the threshold of a matriarchate because Thatcher, indeed, due to her intellectual level, her level of political preparation, her energy, could well play the role of informal leader of NATO, especially as it is not known who will be U.S. President, and much will depend on that. In any event, she thinks that she could do this. So it is quite possible that such an epoch lies ahead for us.

[Kalyagin] Viewers are very interested in the position in France. Quite a lot of questions have come in about various aspects of relations with that country. [passage omitted]

[Bovin] I think we need some tougher and franker talking here, bringing in not just the French Communists. Unfortunately, almost all the communist parties in the developed capitalist countries are now undergoing a very difficult and complicated period connected with the fact that, if one looks at the essence of the matter, in the past half century, capitalism has changed greatly. It is completely different from what it was in the middle of the 20th century. Unfortunately, the communist parties have been unable so far to adapt their tactics, strategy, and ideology to the changes, to the rapidly changing world in which we are all immersed. Therefore, they are not managing to gain mass support. For this reason, they do not have the influence and prestige which one would like them to have. That is the general background against which, I repeat, one must regard the position and prospects of the communist party at these elections. This is a very great, a very difficult, and very complicated problem which has as yet been rather little studied here.

[Kalyagin] Electrician Konstantin Leonidovich Khasin from the town of Kuybyshev asks when we are going to stop jamming Western radio stations and what the point of this is. Well, we have stopped jamming Western radio stations. I think that only the openly counterrevolutionary Radio Liberty is jammed.

[Bovin] Voice of America is not jammed.

[Kalyagin] Voice of America is not jammed. The BBC is not jammed. I think that, on the contrary, interest in them has waned greatly because there has been a great increase in the amount of biting and principled articles dealing with problems in the Soviet press and on Soviet radio and television. Most likely we will go even further along this path. [passage omitted]

[Kalyagin] Comrade Maryshev from Kazan asks what the USSR's policy is now with regard to the U.S. SDI plans. I do not think our policy has changed.

[Karpov] No, it has not changed. We consider that this program does nothing to facilitate the maintenance of strategic stability and the strengthening of mutual security between the USSR and the United States, and on this score our negative attitude toward it remains the same. [passage omitted]

I have a question here from Natalya Vladimirovna Smelova asking about how the scientific-technical and organizational preparations are being carried out to implement monitoring of the observation of the provisions of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. These preparations are being conducted in the USSR at the same time as the discussion of the question of the treaty ratification. The relevant organizations are being set up, and they are being charged, at state level, with carrying out work to observe the implementation of this treaty—that is a Soviet mechanism for monitoring that the treaty is being observed both by the United States and here in the country. A corps of inspectors is being set up. The Soviet part of the special monitoring commission is being set up. There will be up to 400 inspectors in our corps of inspectors. They will have a good knowledge of their duties, of the treaty and its provisions. They will be able, immediately, when the treaty comes into force, to begin work. They will have to travel to the European countries on whose territories U.S. missiles are now stationed, that is, to Britain, the FRG, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, and to the United States to arrange a system for monitoring the implementation of the agreement. [passage omitted]

[Ledentsov] I have a question here. Unfortunately, I do not have the name of the sender: There are a number of agreements with countries such as Greece that contain large figures, for example, for the repair of Soviet ships. In connection with the absence of foreign currency, these agreements are not being fulfilled by the Soviet sides, and this puts our country in the position of being an unreliable partner. How can one explain this?

We do indeed have a number of agreements with European countries that give specific target figures. Further implementation of these agreements depends on the competitiveness of the sides, on the extent to which the proposal of each partner is advantageous as compared with other proposals, perhaps from the same European state. Indeed, as far Greece, in particular, is concerned, we have traditionally had our ships repaired in Greece, and we continue to do so. As a rule the agreements we concluded with them as targets have been fulfilled. But in the past couple of years, the Greek shipyards have not been able to stand up to competition compared with what has been offered by other European shipyards, and, therefore, the figures that existed before have, in a number of cases, not been achieved.

I think that the blame for this does not lie with us for, as the writer says, not having the foreign currency. Indeed, some other use could be found for the foreign currency. But in this case, replying to the specific question about why there has been a reduction in the number of ships repaired in Greece, they have simply lost the business in the competitive struggle with other European shipyards.

[Kalyagin] Yuriy Pavlovich, here is another sharp question, and this one is signed. It is from Vadim Yevgeniyevich Smirnov, an engineer-in-charge from Kiev, who asks whether the USSR intends to cease foreign grain purchases.

[Ledentsov] Well, this depends to what extent our country will be able to provide itself with grain for food and animal fodder. If we do good work in this area, then we shall be able to do without grain purchases. Regarding the prospects for the next 2 or 3 years, I think that in practice grain purchases will continue. [passage omitted: video recording of Bonn correspondent Vladimir Kondratyev conducting a 4-minute interview with FRG Foreign Minister Genscher, who praises the INF Treaty and calls for more East-West disarmament agreements]

[Kalyagin] Perhaps someone would like to comment on the interview with the FRG foreign minister? Yevgeniy Yevgenyevich?

[Grigoryev] I think that everyone who listened to and saw it just now could draw the conclusion that these were fine words and that the intentions expressed were also very good. It must be said that today people in the FRG, including those in FRG Government circles, are really giving serious thought to questions of how to arrange relations with the USSR and of what should be done next in the sphere of European security and disarmament. Well, at least the FRG Government, and just now we heard this from the mouth of Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor Genscher, states that it is in favor of further disarmament; that it is in favor of developing relations with the USSR, and so on.

There has taken place in our relations of late if not an important event then at least a very important landmark because there has been the announcement of the forthcoming exchange of top-level visits. In the fall, Federal Chancellor Kohl will come here, and in the first half of next year Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, will visit the FRG. These facts show that our relations are on the move. In these relations the elements connected with European security and with disarmament have always occupied a central position, and they still do.

But as to how these things are decided in practice, not everything is always clear and simple. In any event, in the elaboration of the concept that Mr Genscher was talking about just now, various political forces take part. In any event, their influence affects the formation and the deformation of the concept proposed by the FRG Government. The first reports of such a concept, in particular in connection with the reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces, appeared recently. In general, this comes down to reducing the total level of the armed forces of each of the sides to 95 percent of the present NATO level.

This presupposes, at least according to the ideas of those who drew up this concept, so-called asymmetric reductions, considerably more on the side of the Warsaw Treaty and considerably less, both in numbers of personnel and in armed forces, on the side of the West. In particular, as far as I recall, it specifically proposes, for example that the Warsaw Treaty countries should carry out a reduction of about 14,000 tanks—and indeed we do have more tanks on our side—but the NATO countries in this case would carry out reduction of only 800. Moreover, this concept, of course, leaves outside its sphere of attention a whole range of questions which are very important for us. For example, omitted are those types of weapons in which the Western side has superiority, for example, helicopters and a whole range of other weapons.

But, on the whole, I must say that the striving of the FRG Government to elaborate and discuss such questions, to improve relations with the USSR, is, I think, a serious striving. Here, I think it is also important, to note one particular aspect. The restructuring going on in our country, the glasnost, the new political thinking is finding favorable soil among the public of West Germany. Much with regard to the political circles of the FRG on the themes of which we have been speaking can be explained precisely by the fact that they must take account of the mood of the very broad public circles of their country who really come out for nuclear disarmament, for elimination of all nuclear weapons in Europe. Very many people support this. The so-called Eastern marches showed this once again. They also favor good relations with the USSR, in particular.

[Kalyagin] Nikolay Borisovich Khromov from Moscow asks this question: Our media often tell us how much various types of weapons are costing the U.S. taxpayer. But how much does the production of the intermediate- and shorter-range missiles which are to be destroyed cost the Soviet taxpayer? Viktor Pavlovich, it seems that this is one for you to answer.

[Karpov] I can only say that we do not have such statistics. That is the first thing. Second, there are no criteria for comparing our prices and Western prices. A reform of prices and price formation is planned for our country. It would seem that in about 3 years when this reform is carried out, we shall be able to compare these figures. But it must be said that, naturally, the missiles to be destroyed cost our taxpayers dearly. But the capacities which have been freed will be used for making other products, peaceful products. For example, the Votkinsk works, which has already ceased to make intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, has begun producing more of its popular washing machines and other consumer goods. [passage omitted]

[Kalyagin] Many viewers ask about links between CEMA and the Common Market. How they are developing; what are the prospects for them. Many comrades are asking this, and I am not going to list their names.

[Ledentsov] Well, the interest of these two organizations, CEMA and the Common Market, is understandable. They are two quite strong European economic groups. The first step toward establishing relations between CEMA and the Common Market was taken by the Soviet side in mid-1985. Now there are active talks going on about signing an agreement, first between the CEMA countries and the Common Market, and secondly between individual CEMA members—in particular, the Soviet Union—and the Common Market. The talks have gone quite far. Certain CEMA countries have relations with the Common Market that have progressed further than ours: Hungary, for example, has achieved quite substantial successes. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, we are in favor of establishing those relations as quickly as possible. We are ready. What are the obstacles? The overall outlines of an agreement between CEMA and the EEC have already been defined, but an obstacle has arisen in the form of the so-called territorial proviso in which the Common Market countries—call them the NATO countries—are trying to return to the West Berlin problem. There is a definite agreement on West Berlin, signed in 1972. It is an independent political entity. But I think that common sense will triumph in the question of how to solve the problem of the territorial proviso. We are on the path: that is the optimistic reply I would give to the person, or rather to the group of comrades that asked the question. An agreement is needed: This is realized both by the Common Market organizations and CEMA organizations; our economic organizations, too, have an interest in it.

[Kalyagin] There are a few letters here with quesitons for me. One of them asks whether we will be showing Western television programs, made by the BBC or other Western countries, in the Soviet Union. Well, we are already putting on individual programs made in the West, and quite regularly. As far as any sort of regular channel is concerned—say a BBC channel in the Soviet Union—there is probably no point to it. What I will say is that our links with the United States and other Western countries in the sphere of television are now gradually broadening, and one of the things that prove this is the television bridges that have become regular programs. University lecturer Nikolay Yefimovich Kazitskiy says: If we are trying to establish public cooperation with Europe, why are we setting up television bridges in such an unprofessional way as the Moscow-Britain television bridge was set up? Or does Comrade Kalyagin think differently? Well, if you remember, Comrade Kazitskiy, there were five television bridges between the Soviet Union and Britain. Perhaps not all of them were of equal worth. Some were organized better than others but, nonetheless, I think they were of very great interest and were very valuable to us because we gained very important experience, both Soviet television and the Soviet public taking part. It is not so easy to learn how to speak freely and frankly about all things, many of which we used to prefer to keep quiet about. It was useful experience, but not everything runs as smoothly and trouble-free as we would like. I think that gradually we will learn how to hold successful discussions with any partners in the West.

There is a question for me here. Comrade Georgiy Vasiliyevich Andreyevskiy, a lawyer, says that in the film—he is referring to the clip from the film "Peace to the European Home" which was shown at the beginning—it is said that British missiles are targeted on the USSR. In what sense? Are they ballistic missiles? What was referred to was the Greenham Common missile base where U.S. ground-based Tomahawk cruise missiles are stationed. They are targeted on the USSR. But in accordance with the agreement that has now been signed and which, as is hoped, will be ratified, these missiles are to be destroyed.

[Karpov] And we will monitor that.

[Kalyagin] Yes, we will monitor that. Viktor Ilich Zhukov, an enginner from Riga, asks: Proceeding from the principle of sufficiency, is a unilateral reduction of conventional weapons by our country possible? What do you think?

[Karpov] I think that what is needed now is to discuss not unilateral reductions but a whole system of reductions of armed forces and armaments in Europe, both of NATO and of the Warsaw Pact. Both the USSR and its allies have such a program, and we propose to the NATO countries to start such talks as soon as possible. These talks would include the discovery and elimination of asymmetries in various types of armaments and armed forces. That is, the side having a greater number of tanks, for example, would reduce more tanks; the side having more tactical aviation would reduce tactical aviation, and so on. Then, after the elimination of these asymmetries, there would be reductions to the agreed low levels, and as a final result, the reduction of the levels of the armed forces of the blocs to such levels as would exclude the possibility of conducting offensive operations. Well, the final aim is the dissolution of all blocs and the creation in Europe of a single system of collective security. [passage omitted]

[Kalyagin] Comrade Sachkov from Kiev asks how the question connected with the unification of the FRG and GDR will be resolved. Is this question discussed at meetings between leaders of the FRG and GDR? Comrade Sergey Petrovich Ogaliyvets from Kiev also expresses concern on this issue. He puts it this way: Many people are talking about uniting the FRG and the GDR. But why talk of uniting the GDR with the FRG, and why not create a new socialist state on the basis of joining the two states together? The sense of the questions is clear.

[Grigoryev] I think that at meetings of the leaders of the two German states, such questions have not been discussed and are not being discussed. I could recall the frequent statements of the GDR leader Comrade Honecker that this would be equivalent to an attempt to mix fire and water since these states are completely different in their sociopolitical systems. It is quite a different matter to talk about cooperation between the two German states in the political sphere, in the economic and cultural spheres on the basis of the treaty which was concluded in the seventies between the FRG and the GDR on the basis of complete equality, sovereignty, independence, respect of the rights of each other's citizens, and so on.

But if one looks back into history a little, it must be said that the question of Germany was decided at the end of the war and after the war at Yalta and Potsdam. At that time, primarily in Potsdam, a document was drawn up which envisaged, so to speak, the unity of Germany and a single German state. But the Western states and primarily the United States, Britain, and France went along a different path by creating a West German state, and thus they in general departed from the provisions which were laid down in the Potsdam declaration. History moved along a different path. History led to the emergence of the FRG as is frequently said, as a capitalist country, and the socialist GDR. Although for many decades Bonn has been saying all the time that the German question remains open, in general no movement has occurred here, none is taking place, and none can occur in the given specific historic conditions. In my view, this whole question must be left to history. Who knows what will happen in 100 years? But the use of this issue by certain political circles in the FRG in essence runs contrary to the good aspirations which are expressed also from official rostra with regard to the desirability of a peace system in Europe, cooperation in Europe, and so on. This is because, as one of our listeners and viewers said, in general all the plans by certain West German circles are aimed precisely at swallowing up the GDR. They do not say this openly, but in fact they have this aim somewhere in their minds. Of course, all of this is out of step with the times and, in my view, has no future. It is necessary to proceed from the specific conditions which exist now—the existence of two German states—and on this basis build new relations in Europe, cooperation in Europe, and strengthen security. Only in this way, only taking account of these real factors is it possible to make progress on our continent. I would say that it is difficult even to imagine the European home otherwise.

[Kalyagin] Aleksandr Yevgenyevich, as you were unable to give a real answer to the question of the activity of the church, I would like to ask you a very thorny question. Comrade Sergey Mikhaylovich Pavlenko from Moscow asks: Have there been any mistakes in our international relations?

[Bovin] Well, I think that as we are not gods but just ordinary people. All mortals make mistakes, and we have made such mistakes. If one is to talk about the latest one—the latest ones—I think these were the talks on intermediate-range missiles. What position did we take? If you do something or other, we shall walk out of the talks. In other words, we issued an ultimatum. We walked out of the talks, and made all sorts of solemn declarations. Then we came back to the talks. From the point of view of the world public, we by no means made the best impression. So that is another example.

[Kalyagin] Do you agree, Viktor Pavlovich? You were actually there taking part in the talks.

[Karpov] Yes, I think our declarations at the end of 1982—that we were walking out of the talks on intermediate-range weapons in Europe—were hardly justified in the circumstances....

[Kalyagin, interrupting] Or productive?

[Karpov]...or productive from the point of view of the development of the talks. In the end, the talks were resumed, and at long last they did end in agreement.

[Bovin] I think in general this tactic, where a diplomat actually walks out of the conference room, is not a good one at talks. Another example, of less recent date: The Japanese and Chinese were preparing a peace treaty. They had the thesis of the struggle against hegemonism. We considered that this was against us and starting persuading the Japanese to strike this out. Of course, they didn't cancel out the thesis on hegemonism; it was adopted. Neither did this show us in a very good light. That is another concrete example, if you like. Perhaps there are other examples I don't know.

[Kalyagin] Yuriy Pavlovich, Engineer (?Amelin) from Moscow wants to know whether there is any possibility of our country joining the Monetary Fund, and of the ruble becoming a freely convertible currency among the socialist countries.

[Ledentsov] Well, I have a similar question.

[Kalyagin] I would ask you to be brief, though, please, as our time is running out.

[Ledentsov] I don't think that is a realistic prospect in the near future. We first need to strengthen our ruble and make it freely convertible. Before we can do that, we'll have to work on our own economy and then think about other organizations. As for the ruble as such, I'd like to give a brief answer to the questions that have been asked. It is in operation as a unit of currency in relations among our socialist countries. Moreover, I'd like to say, as we're speaking of Europe, that with a number of European countries, among them Finland, we also conduct our accounts in clearing rubles, as they're called. In the press, and here one of the authors of the note writes that...

[Kalyagin, interrupting] Well, time is up, so unfortunately I must...

[Ledentsov, interrupting] Well, in a word, this is not something that is of immediate interest at present, but rather something for the future. [passage omitted]

United States & Canada

U.S. Prepared To Be Afghan Accord Guarantor

LD120003 Moscow TASS in English 2349 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 12 TASS—By TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev:

The United States is prepared to become a guarantor of agreements on settling the external aspects of the situation around Afghanistan, worked out at the Afghan-Pakistani talks mediated by personal envoy of the U.N. secretary-general, Diego Cordovez, according to an official statement made by President Reagan on Monday after a White House meeting with leading foreign policy advisers.

The meeting, which focused on latest developments around Afghanistan and the positions of all interested sides, was attended by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci and Assistant to the President on National Security Affairs Colin Powell.

After the meeting President Reagan made a short statement for the press, in which he said, in particular: "I believe that U.S. can now join the Soviet Union as a guarantor of the Geneva instruments. I've therefore asked Secretary Shultz to represent us at a signing ceremony for the historic accords scheduled to take place in Geneva later this week."

Later Secretary Shultz told the White House press conference that the USA had retained the right to make supplies to its friends in Afghanistan whenever it finds it necessary. According to the newspaper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, Washington is currently supplying the opposition with several hundred million dollars' worth of additional arms to replenish its stocks for months to come. Quoting well-informed sources, the newspaper writes that the supplies also include hardware, which has never before been sent to the opposition.

Even before the official announcement that the USA will become a guarantor of the accords on the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, the administration launched a vigorous propaganda campaign to present the Geneva accords as nothing more than a victory for the so-called Reagan doctrine. However, the right-wing circles in the USA regarded the White House readiness to support the Geneva accords as a "sellout" of the armed groups of the Afghan opposition fighting to overthrow the Kabul government. Reactionary Republican Senator Gordon Humphrey, who is heading a special Congress group on Afghanistan, called on President Reagan not to approve the accords until they satisfied the ringleaders of the armed oppostion. After a meeting in Pakistan with the leaders of the Afghan opposition, the Senator declared that they were strongly opposed to the accords. It is expected that in the next few days the leadership of the Congress may ask Secretary of State Shultz to explain to the Congress the administration's position on this issue.

U.S.-USSR Commercial Group Session Opens

Kachanov Assesses Meeting

LD111758 Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—The tenth joint U.S.-USSR Commercial Commission meeting to open tomorrow is assessed by USSR first deputy minister of foreign economic relations, Aleksandr Kachanov, as a stage of preparation for the new summit meeting between the USSR and the USA. "We hold that the development of trade and economic ties can make a substantial contribution to the improvement of the entire complex of relations between the USSR and the USA," he told a TASS correspondent.

Kachanov who leads the Soviet delegation to the meeting said that the USSR is striving to do everything necessary for the development of commercial ties between the two countries. The reform of external economic ties implemented in the Soviet Union creates the most favourable conditions for that.

But the widening of reciprocal trade depends not only on the Soviet side, the deputy minister said. "We hope that our American partners are aware of this, too. The widening of Soviet-American trade and economic relations is a political, rather than economic matter. A whole number of discriminatory measures hampering normal development of bilateral business ties now operate in trade between the USSR and the USA from the American side. Political steps for their elimination by the U.S. side will make it possible to widen commercial and economic ties between the two countries considerably. If this is not done, their development will be as difficult as it is at present."

Many fundamental questions of bilateral trade will be discussed at the coming joint U.S.-USSR Commercial Commission meeting. They include conditions for the setting up of joint ventures, development of production cooperation. Another opportunity to increase the trade turnover between the USSR and the USA, to be also discussed, is the operation of many Soviet ministries and industrial enterprises on the foreign market, which enables them to establish direct ties with American firms.

Verity on Hopes for Talks

LD111339 Moscow TASS in English 1309 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—"The U.S. Government supports the expansion of peaceful, mutually beneficial trade and economic relations between the United States and the Soviet Union", U.S. Commerce Secretary William Verity said here.

He arrived in Moscow today to attend the 10th meeting of the Soviet-U.S. Commercial Commission, which opens here tomorrow.

In December 1987 President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev agreed in Washington that the joint commission should develop concrete proposals to step up trade and economic relations between the two countries.

It was with that aim, Verity said, that the U.S. delegation, including a number of ranking officials from the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture as well as the National Security Council, had come to Moscow.

"We hope to reach agreement on some specific steps that can expand our trade," Verity said.

U.S. Delegation Arrives

LD111209 Moscow TASS in English 1155 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—A U.S. delegation led by U.S. Secretary of Commerce William Verity arrived here today to attend the 10th session of the joint Soviet-American Commission on Trade.

Apart from it, a large group of representatives of U.S. business circles led by Dwayne Andreas, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Archer-Daniels-Midland Corporation and co-chairman of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council from the U.S. side, came to Moscow in connection with the holding of the 11th annual conference of the council.

At the airport the guests were welcomed by Aleksandr Kachanov, first deputy minister of foreign economic relations of the USSR, Vladislav Malkevich, president of the Presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other officials.

The welcoming party included Jack Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR.

Kamentsev Meets With Verity

PM121145 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Delegation Received"]

[Text] On 11 April V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received W. Verity, U.S. commerce secretary, who is in Moscow at the head of the U.S. delegation taking part in the routine 10th session of the Soviet-American Trade Commission.

During the meeting, there was an exchange of opinions on the state of and possible ways to develop trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Emphasis was placed on the importance of seeking common approaches and mutually acceptable solutions to principled problems in this sphere of bilateral relations, which have received new impetus since the Soviet-U.S. summit in Washington in December 1987. It was suggested to the U.S. side that the main principles of these relations be discussed and enshrined in a corresponding joint document.

The U.S. delegation's attention was drawn to the expediency of extending the sphere of operation of the long-term agreement on the promotion of economic, industrial, and technical cooperation and to new forms of economic collaboration between Soviet organizations and U.S. firms including the creation of joint enterprises, the first of which are beginning their practical activity.

The Soviet side expressed the opinion that it is therefore necessary to extend the range of work of the Soviet-U.S. trade commission and to include in its sphere of activity all problems connected with the implementation of bilateral USSR-U.S. trade and economic ties.

J. Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR, was present at the conversation.

Ryzhkov Receives Verity

PM121143 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 88 Second Edition p 3

[Text] Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolay Ryzhkov on April 11 received U.S. Secretary of Commerce William Verity, who heads the U.S. delegation at the tenth joint U.S.-USSR Trade Commission meeting underway in Moscow.

A businesslike constructive conversation was held. Problems of the development of economic cooperation between the USSR and the United States were discussed during the conversation in light of agreements in principle reached at the meeting between General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and President of the United States Ronald Reagan in December 1987.

The chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers noted that the current meeting of the commission, as well as the meeting of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council, take place in a new atmosphere of Soviet-American relations created by the Washington summit which gave a strong impetus to the Soviet-American political dialogue in every area. Questions of security, radical arms reduction, and the working out of new Soviet-American accords are in the focus of attention of the leaders of the two countries. A successful conclusion to the current intensive work to draft a treaty on substantial cuts in strategic offensive arms under conditions of the observance of the ABM Treaty, as signed in 1972, would create a basis for the improvement of Soviet-American relations and intensification of cooperation in the most diverse areas.

Broad development of commercial and economic relations, which are still at an unsatisfactory level, could make a big positive contribution to the creation of an atmosphere of confidence between the two countries. The volume and contents of these relations are not in keeping either with the potentials of the two countries, or their position in the system of world economic ties, or with the new things that are brought into the economic life by restructuring. The viewpoint of the Soviet side on the reasons behind such a state of affairs was set out. It was emphasized that the commercial and economic relations will be stable and truly of mutual advantage only when they are based on real businesslike interests, on the principles of equality and nondiscrimination. The creation of a corresponding treaty and legal basis for Soviet-American economic relations could help solve this task.

William Verity stated the support of the U.S. Administration for the expansion of commercial and economic ties with the USSR in the context of overall intensification of Soviet-American relations. He noted great importance of the discussion of the problems of bilateral cooperation between American and Soviet officials and representatives of the business circles of the two countries that started in Moscow.

Nikolay Ryzhkov informed the American interlocutors in detail about the contents and progress of restructuring in the USSR, about the making of a radical economic reform. The importance of the decisions made in the Soviet Union to create favorable conditions for business contacts between foreign entrepreneurs and their Soviet partners, specifically for the setting up and operation of joint ventures which could play their role in the further development and consolidation of economic ties, was noted. It was said that more intensive actions are expected from the U.S. side in this respect, moreover since a sufficient number of matters that require political solution has accumulated. William Verity set out his viewpoints about steps both sides could take to help put right and develop businesslike cooperation.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with a constructive nature of the exchange of opinions on economic problems which had become more intensive of late.

The following were present at the conversation: On the Soviet side—V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Yu. M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister; A.I. Kachanov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign economic relations; and O.V. Kozhevnikov, USSR trade representative in the United States. On the American side—A. Wallis, U.S. under secretary of state for economic affairs; J. Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR; and F. Vargo, deputy commerce secretary and executive secretary of the American section of the Soviet-American Trade Commission.

Northeast Asia

WPK Delegation's USSR Activities Detailed

PM111149 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 88 Second Edition p 7

[TASS report: "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], a delegation of WPK workers headed by Lyu Che Yen, deputy chief of the WPK Central Committee Science and Education Department [name and title as published], was in the Soviet Union 31 March through 7 April. The delegation familiarized itself with the experience of the development of the social sciences in the USSR.

The Korean comrades had meetings and conversations in the CPSU Central Committee Science and Educational Establishments Department and the Leningrad CPSU Obkom and familiarized themselves with the activity of the CPSU Central Committee Marxism-Leninism Institute, the Academy of Social Sciences, and the All-Union House of Political Enlightenment. They also visited the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium and a number of scientific establishments in Moscow and Leningrad.

Japanese 'Disinformation,' Arms Build-Up Scored

LD112217 Moscow TASS in English 2134 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—By TASS political news analyst Askold Biryukov:

The National Defense Agency of Japan has prepared what it called an analysis of the state of the Soviet Armed Forces in the Far East over the past three years, which represents an attempt to confuse matters entirely. This analysis, if one may call it so, alleges that the strengthening of the Soviet Armed Forces is continuing in the Far East, irrespective of the atmosphere of disarmament following the signing of a Treaty on Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles.

An expert of the USSR Ministry of Defense, asked about his view of the analysis by the National Defense Agency, described it as a "piece of purposeful disinformation". Its aim, he stressed, is to justify the build-up by Japan of its own armed forces, rising military spending and the strengthening of its military political alliance with the USA.

This build-up is indeed proceeding at accelerated pace. According to U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci, Japan has twice as many destroyers as the 7th U.S. Fleet in the Pacific and Indian oceans, four times as many antisubmarine aircraft and as many aircraft to defend its airspace as the USA has to defend its territory. Japan already left behind NATO countries in terms of the rates of growth of military spending. Far from satisfied with the quantitative build-up of its armed forces, Tokyo has set the task of making a qualitative leap: To pass from the old, strictly defensive, strategy to the strategy of defeating the enemy before it lands in Japan. Is not it an advocation of delivering a kind of pre-emptive strikes? Heated debates are being held in the country on the issue of arming the armed forces with offensive weapons, including aircraft carriers. Countries in Asia and the Pacific were literally astonished by the recent statement of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita who urged to raise Japan's military might to match its economic possibilities.

Of course, the timing of releasing the "analysis" by the Defense Agency is not accidental. The attention of news analysts was drawn to the nervous reaction of Japanese military circles to the signing late last year of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles which marked the first step towards a nuclear-free world, the termination of the arms race. Japan's military and political circles, which before kept on demanding the withdrawal from Asia of Soviet missiles which allegedly threatened Japan, lost a decisive argument in their campaign for building up Japan's defensive might, with the signing of the agreement. Despite obvious facts, they in Tokyo started to claim that the elimination of SS-20's in Asia would not change the military situation which allegedly continued to be characterised by a build-up of Soviet military might in the Far East.

In the obtaining new situation in the world, marked by the development of political dialogue and a collective search for ways out of disarmament and other international problems, the Japanese ruling circles find it increasingly harder to justify before their own poeple and the peoples of the region the policy of escalating military preparations, drawing Japan deeper into the strategy of the USA which is jeopardising the peace and stability in the region. This goes some way to explain the unceasing efforts to find some new external "threats" to Japan, to create the "enemy" image. But, intimidating their own people with the imaginary threat, they frighten the peoples of the region with the real threat of turning Japan into a mighty military power with wide expansionist plans.

Japan's military ambitions, no matter what they used to conceal them, are a cause of great alarm in Asia. Reflecting the feelings in the countries of the region, the newspaper INDONESIA TIMES wrote recently that those countries acknowledged the economic role of Japan, were not opposed to the growth of its political weight, but were concerned with its growing military role. There is no need for Japan to step up its rearmament programme, which can trigger off a reaction from the USSR and lead to an exacerbation of tensions in the region. The newspaper continues that the programme is unacceptable to the majority of the Japanese population and to nearly all Asian nations which suffered during the Second World War and did not forget the tragic experience. The analysts from the Defense Agency will do well to recall this tragic experience as well.

Briefs

Trade Protocol With DPRK

The Soviet Union and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have signed a protocol on trade and payments for the current year. It provides for a further increase in bilateral trade. The Soviet Union will export to Democratic Korea machines, equipment, fuel, and energy raw materials in exchange for nonferrous metals, clothing, and products of machine plants built with Soviet assistance. This year the Soviet Union will expand trade with a number of other Asian countries. Its trade with China, for example, is to grow by nearly 30 percent. [Text] [*LD040039 Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 3 Apr 88*]

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Reportage on U.S.-Philippine Bases Talks

U.S. Boycotts Session

LD081042 Moscow TASS in English 0924 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Manila April 8 TASS—The U.S. delegation boycotted a session at talks here on the status of U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

According to local newspapers, Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus had proposed that the text of the bases agreement, now in effect, be amended to bind the United States to obtain consent of the Philippine Government for the deployment of missile weapons at the bases and the holding of exercises.

The initiative met with a catagorical protest on the part of U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt, chief American negotiator.

He said that a decision to restrict the unimpeded use of the bases would seriously damage U.S. military operations in the region.

Manglapus Cited on Missiles

LD100922 Moscow TASS in English 0832 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Manila April 10 TASS—Weapons at the U.S. military bases in the Philippines meet the goals of the global strategy of the United States and not the interests of the Philippines which faces no threat from outside, Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus said here.

The Philippine foreign minister addressed a meeting of the Veterans of the Second World War held to mark the 46th anniversary of the battle against Japanese occupation troops for the Philippine territories Bataan and

Corregidor. Local diplomatic circles note that it was the first statement by the Philippine Government acknowledging the presence of missiles at the U.S. military bases. As is known, the United States neither confirms nor denies the fact of deployment of nuclear missiles at its military facilities in the Philippines. Raul Manglapus made his statement at the end of the first week of the Philippine-U.S. talks on the status of U.S. bases in the country.

Representatives of different democratic organisations and groups in the Philippines believe that the military bases serve as a major arsenal for nuclear weapons which is a violation of the non-nuclear principle of the country's Constitution.

Rogachev Arrives in Indonesia for Talks

Supports Cambodian Talks

BK090634 Hong Kong AFP in English 0603 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 9 (AFP)—A senior Soviet official urged Prince Norodom Sihanouk Saturday to resume talks with Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen but criticised the Cambodian resistance leader for attempting to open talks with Vietnam instead.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev said Prince Sihanouk's decision to call off a third round of talks with Mr. Hun Sen "shouldn't be dramatised," because "we know the changeable nature of the prince."

Mr. Rogachev, here on a four-day visit, told newsmen that Prince Sihanouk, who heads an anti-Vietnamese coalition, should stop questioning Mr. Hun Sen's credentials for participating in talks to end the Cambodia conflict.

"His argument is that Hun Sen is not independent. But is Sihanouk independent enough? Who does he represent when he argues Hun Sen should be represented by Vietnam?" Mr. Rogachev said.

Mr. Rogachev said the Sihanouk-Hun Sen talks could be useful although Moscow believed the peace process could be better served by direct discussions between China and Vietnam. He ruled out any role for Moscow in the talks.

China is the principal supplier of weapons to Prince Sihanouk's tripartite coalition while Vietnam has some 140,000 troops in Cambodia which Hanoi says it will withdraw by 1990.

"As far as we are concerned we will do our best to facilitate the finding of a solution mutually acceptable to all sides," said Mr. Rogachev who visited the three Indochina countries, the Philippines and Singapore before coming here.

The Soviet diplomat said Moscow believed that a formula worked out last year between Indonesia and Vietnam could serve as the basis for a settlement in Cambodia.

That plan calls for talks in two stages—first between the warring Cambodian factions followed immediately by an enlarged meeting in which all concerned parties, including Vietnam, would take part.

Mr. Rogachev also said he hoped the agreement on Afghanistan announced in Geneva Friday would help inspire resolution of "other regional conflicts including Cambodia."

Further on Talks

BK101235 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] The Soviet Union has reaffirmed its support for an informal meeting to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Cambodian crisis. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev reaffirmed the support upon arrival in Jakarta this afternoon to attend the 44th ESCAP annual meeting.

According to Igor Rogachev, an informal meeting as agreed upon during the talks between Indonesia and Vietnam last year is very important to enable the Cambodian issue to be settled immediately without the interference of other parties, which intend to take this opportunity. In addition, the Soviet deputy foreign minister stressed the importance of the resumption of stalled dialogue between Cambodian resistance leader Sihanouk and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Igor Rogachev earlier visited Kuala Lumpur and will continue his trip to Bangkok, Thailand from Indonesia.

To Meet Indonesian Minister

BK110430 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0210 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Jakarta, April 11 (ANTARA/OANA)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev has reiterated Soviet support to the idea of holding a cocktail party to seek solution to the Kampuchean problem.

Rogachev told ANTARA when he arrived at the Sukarno-Hatta International Airport here Sunday afternoon that the Soviet Union considered important the holding of such an informal meeting to solve the issue as soon as possible without interference from other sides.

The Soviet deputy minister arrived in Jakarta from Kuala Lumpur to head a Soviet delegation to the 44th meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) scheduled to be opened by President Suharto today.

He emphasized the importance of continuing the dialogue between Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), and Hun Sen, prime minister in the Vietnam-backed Kamuchean Government.

Sihanouk and Hun Sen have met twice in France. The CGDK president has rejected a proposal for holding the third meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea, and hoped for having talks in Vietnam.

"We support a formulation that has been made by Indonesian and Vietnamese foreign ministers in Ho Chi Minh city," Rogachev said, adding that the formulation is very important in the effort to settle the Kampuchean political unrest that has been running for ten years.

Indonesia and Vietnam reached an agreement in Ho Chi Minh city in mid last year on the importance of holding an informal meeting that has been called a cocktail party.

The informal meeting will be held in two stages. The CGDK and the Heng Samrin Government and expected to hold talks in the first stage in Jakarta, while the Kampuchean group (the CGDK and the Heng Samrin regime) and Vietnam as well as other interested countries are expected to meet in the second stage.

While here, Mr Rogachev will meet with his Indonesian counterpart [as received], Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues.

Rogachev said he will also discuss with Alatas the effort to promote economic relations between Indonesia and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet deputy minister said he hoped for having the opportunity to meet with other Indonesian high ranking officials.

He will end his visit on Thursday and continue the trip to Bangkok, Thailand.

The Soviet delegation was welcomed at the Sukarno-Hatta International Airport by Soviet Ambassador to Indonesia Vladimir Semenov, Malaysian Ambassador to Indonesia M. Khatib and staff members of the Soviet Embassy in Jakarta.

West Said To Exploit ASEAN Trade Situation

OW111218 Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1200 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Shiryamov commentary]

[Text] A traditional Asian Week is being held at the World Peace Council's proposal. Its purpose is to urge the Asian people to take action to improve the situation on the Asian continent. Shiryamov, an economic observer of this station, has the following comments:

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed said at the end of February that the tremendous social and economic difficulties of developing countries could destroy all their achievements in their struggle for independence, for which they have sacrificed so much. The Malaysian leader was referring to the worsening economic situation in those countries.

Let us cite the Southeast Asian countries as an example to analyze this problem in detail.

The Philippines is unable to repay its foreign debts and must spend about one-half of its export trade income to pay the interest on foreign debts. Burma spends three-fourths of such income to repay foreign debts. Indonesia's foreign debts increased by nearly $5 billion in 1987. These countries owe huge foreign debts not because they spend money freely, but because capitalist powers are slyly plundering them by manipulating foreign exchange rates and international commodity prices. The root of the financial crisis in these countries is the Western nations' new colonialist trade exploitation of their former colonies.

It has become increasingly difficult for developing countries to earn income from export trade. For instance, export to the U.S. market is becoming very competitive. Washington has raised its import duties, creating difficulties particularly for the Philippines and Singapore. Selling goods in the United States is a matter of life and death to the economies of these countries. Not long ago, the Singapore Government raised strong objections to the U.S. restriction on import of Singapore goods. The Singapore minister of foreign affairs came straight to the point and told U.S. Secretary of State Shultz that although the restriction shakes the ASEAN nations' trust in U.S. trade policy, Washington takes no heed.

Some U.N. experts have predicted that the economic growth in capitalist countries will decrease this year. One-fourth of U.S. economists have predicted that the economic locomotive of the capitalist world will slow down and there will be an economic depression in the United States this year.

Then what will happen to those railway cars drawn by the locomotive and to the economies of the developing countries which rely on the U.S. market? The strong U.S. locomotive can hold out, but those weak railway cars will suffer. The developing countries now have two options: One is to willingly accept the fate of being exploited by Western nations, and the other is to unite and actively make joint efforts to defend their national interests.

Near East & South Asia

Further Reportage on 'Arafat Moscow Visit

'Arafat Interview Published

PM111545 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 88 Morning Edition pp 4-5

["IZVESTIYA Interview" with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by special correspondents B. Ivanov and M. Kozhevnikov during 'Arafat's "Brief Working Visit to Moscow": "Yasir 'Arafat: About the Uprising, About the Palestinian Problem, About

Himself"; date of interview not given—first paragraph is correspondents' introduction; italicized passages as published]

[Text] Abu 'Ammar.... This name has become legendary and is known to everyone in the Arab world. It is the name given by Palestinians to their leader Yasir 'Arafat, permanent chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. During his brief working visit to Moscow, Abu 'Ammar set aside some time for a conversation with us, IZVESTIYA's special correspondents.

[Correspondents] Demonstrations by Palestinians on the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip are now in their 5th month. Events in these Israeli-occupied Arab territories have again drawn the world public's attention to the Palestinian problem. Judging by the latest news, the situation there remains extremely tense. Peaceful demonstrators are being shot, thousands of people have been thrown in jails and concentration camps. But the uprising is not abating. What, in your opinion, is its future?

['Arafat] What is happening today on the territories captured by Israel is the logical outcome of the many years of struggle by Palestinian Arabs against the occupation regime. The scope and nature of the demonstrations provide full justification to describe them as a proper uprising. This is an uprising by a whole people. Some people try in vain to claim that the struggle by the Arab population on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is uncontrolled. The events fully refute such statements. An uprising headquarters has been set up, its participants are united in their goals. All Palestinians, regardless of where they may be, are in solidarity with its participants. The slogan they have raised—"Down With the Occupation!"—reflects the aspirations not only of those who are being ground under the occupiers' heels, but of the entire Palestinian Arab people. In other words, the uprising is a symbol of the unity of our ranks. And it will, there is no doubt, continue.

There is another very important aspect. Where, do you think, did the occupiers miscalculate? In their expectation that they would be able to put down the uprising within a brief period of time. They have not managed to do this. The Palestinians' demonstrations are rolling in a wave across the occupied territories and swelling day by day. No "iron fist" policy, no repressions will crush the risen people.

And now I want to show you something....

Yasir 'Arafat took a thick folder from the table and handed it to us.

This is a collection of the most detailed information about the course of the uprising. I receive these reports daily. Every 3-4 hours, wherever I happen to be, I receive information about what is happening in various spots in the occupied territories. Here, have a look. This is a list of Palestinians, young and old, killed from the start of the demonstrations through today. A total of 282. As you can see, the figure is much more impressive that the data given by Western news agencies, which reduce the number of victims among the Arab population. As for the wounded, their number is in excess of 7,000; some 16,000 Palestinians have been thrown in jail.

We picked up the lists. Name, surname, age, date and place of death.... Dozens of pages. They represent the anguish, ire, and tragedy of a whole people.

[Correspondents] Is it likely that repressions by the occupiers will make the Palestinians take up arms?

['Arafat] This is not a simple question. Let me remind you that, under international law conventions, any population living in conditions of occupation has the right to wage a struggle against the occupiers by any means and methods, including arms. Hitherto, however, in order to avoid unnecessary bloodshed, I have not issued an order to the risen people to take up arms. At the same time, we have decided to expand our military operations in regions where the uprising has not spread.

[Correspondents] U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz has already been in the Near East twice in the last month. What prompted this, in your opinion? How do you yourself assess the latest U.S. proposals?

['Arafat] To start with, a couple of words about the purpose of these trips. Actually, it was unambiguously formulated by Israel's Prime Minister Shamir. When we failed to cope with the uprising, he noted, the U.S. secretary of state came to our help. It must also be borne in mind that the uprising has reverberated in many West European capitals and even in the United States. Attitudes there toward events in the occupied territories are far from unambiguous now. Voices can be heard for the first time calling on Tel Aviv to review its policy. It seems to me that this situation has prompted Washington to make more active diplomatic efforts in the Near East.

As regards the plan which Shultz brought along, I personally believe that it is unacceptable to us Palestinians.

Let me begin with the fact that the U.S. Administration did not officially notify us of the existence or contents of such a plan. This fact alone confirms that, as before, Washington continues to ignore us. This is, incidentally, also indicated by the U.S. authorities' decision to close down the PLO mission in New York.

And now specifically about the Shultz plan. We have been informed that it contains five so-called "No's": "No" to the Palestinians' right to self-determination; "No" to an independent Palestinian state; "No" to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people; "No" to an independent Palestinian delegation at an international conference on the Near

East; finally, a de facto "No" to the conference itself, since, according to the U.S. design, it ought to be purely ceremonial. Judge for yourselves, how can we accept such a plan?

[Correspondents] What, in your opinion, is the way out of the ongoing deadlock in the Near East?

['Arafat] It is time for all to finally understand that the PLO and the PLO alone has the right to represent the Arab people of Palestine everywhere, including at international forums. In order to undo the Near East knot it is necessary to convene a representative international conference which ought to be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all participants in the Arab-Israeli conflicts including, of course, the PLO. I am convinced that today there is simply no other way to settle the crisis.

[Correspondents] What do you think: Is it possible to expect any changes in Tel Aviv's policy in the near future?

['Arafat] Hard to say. It seems to me that much will depend on the stance of the new U.S. Administration.

[Correspondents] And now a question which may seem somewhat unusual to you. The whole world has heard about Yasir 'Arafat the political figure. But what is he like in his ordinary daily life? Do you have a family, where is your home, do you have any free time, and how do you spend it?

['Arafat] Yes, honestly speaking, it is not often that I am asked about my private life, it is mostly about politics. There it is, my family.

Abu 'Ammar smiled and made a sweeping gesture in the direction of the comrades-in-arms sitting next to him around the table.

Speaking for the record, as it were, I am a bachelor. I don't have my own home. Like millions of my brothers, I am a refugee leading a nomadic life. Frankly speaking, I have long since forgotten what it means to have free time. As a rule, my ordinary working day lasts 18 hours. I take my rest at odd times. If I do happen to have a few minutes to spare (and that happens rarely), I spend them with a book in my hand. I am very fond of historical novels and poetry. Do you know what I am reading now. There you are, "The Memoirs of Moshe Dayan." Don't be surprised, there is much that is interesting there. But let me repeat, even though it may sound trite, work is the main purpose of my life.

[Correspondents] What are you by nature—an optimist or a pessimist?

['Arafat] Despite everything, I've always been and will remain an optimist!

Views Uprising, Shultz Plan

LD112245 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1540 GMT 11 Apr 88

[From "The World Today" program, presented by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov]

[Text] After completion of the Soviet-Palestinian talks in Moscow, I met with Yasir 'Arafat. An excerpt from the interview was shown on "Vremya," but it left out several substantial elements, to which I should now like to draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Seyful-Mulyukov in Arabic fading into Russian translation] What hopes do you, Comrade 'Arafat, pin on the uprising of the Palestinian people, which has been raging for the 5th month now in the territories occupied by Israel?

['Arafat in Arabic fading into Russian translation] First of all, I should like to point out that this is a mass demonstration by our people against the Israeli occupation. It was not spontaneous, as Tel Aviv and certain Western capitals try to make out. The Palestinian uprising was prepared by the whole national liberation movement being put into motion by our people. It has thrown down a challenge to the policy of force, persecution, and arrogant neglect by the Israeli and U.S. figures of our right to self-determination and to return to our native homes. We made a decision on an all-national level—from the headquarters of the Palestinian revolution to the Palestinian child throwing stones at Israeli soldiers—to continue the uprising until the occupation regime is liquidated.

An uprising headquarters has been set up, which includes representatives of various currents united in the PLO. Against an effectively unarmed people the occupiers have thrown a powerful military machine. There is no limit to their cruelty, but they have not been able to crush our uprising. It is embracing more and more new Palestinian villages and refugee camps in the captured territories. The number of Palestinians killed now amounts to about 300. Thousands of our people have been wounded; 16,000 Palestinians have been thrown into Israel torture chambers. But we have decided, in spite of the sacrifices and huge difficulties, to continue our struggle because we are fighting for a just cause, the creation of our own independent state.

The Palestinian uprising on the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip enjoys broad international support and sympathy in the most varied circles, including in the West and among peace-loving democratic forces of Israel. It has created a new situation in the Middle East, and has led to the Palestine problem and the Middle East crisis taking priority among the most acute regional conflicts. All this promotes the activation of international efforts in favor of an all-embracing settlement in the Middle East taking into account the interests of all countries and peoples of the region, including the Palestinain people.

During the Soviet-Palestinian meeting in Moscow it was stressed that our people, which is one of the sides of the Middle East conflict, should be ensured the right to self-determination in the same measure as it was ensured to the people of Israel. Without taking into consideration the interests of all sides in the conflict it is impossible to reach a just and lasting settlement.

I would like to point out that the U.S. Administration does not yet take into account these realities; witness its latest proposal on the Middle East. We consider that the plan being canvassed by Secretary of State Shultz is unacceptable to Palestinians because it contains five no's. No to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; no to an independent Palestine state; no to the PLO, the only legitimate representative of our people; no to an autonomous Palestinian delegation to the international conference; and effectively no to the conference itself, because judging by the Shultz plan, the conference is to be merely of a protocol nature.

During the Moscow talks, we came to the conclusion that only a fully-fledged international forum on questions of a Middle East settlement could provide a real hope for all peoples involved in the conflict. The Soviet and Palestinian sides in the talks noted that an effective international conference was needed which would not only emphasize the Palestinians' rights, but would also help them in the implementation and establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Soviet leadership is exerting every effort for the convening of such a conference with the essential and equal participation in it of the PLO. We consider the national rights of the Palestinian people, and above all, its right to self-determination, to be one of the main foundations for the convening of such a conference. We intend to act in a spirit of constructiveness and realism, in the interests of an all-embracing Middle East settlement. [end recording]

Commentary on Talks

LD111620 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1515 GMT 11 Apr 88

[TASS commentator Viktor Lebedev: "New Thinking and the Mideast Crisis"]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Apr (TASS)—TASS commentator Viktor Lebedev writes:

A Mideast settlement can only be implemented on the tack of new thinking, expanding the possibility of constructive approaches to acute questions whose solution has dragged on for decades. And the core of such a settlement is, of course, the solution of the Palestinian problem. The political situation taking shape in the world, the main element of which is the course toward liberation of mankind from the nuclear threat, creates real prerequisites for resolving regional conflicts. The continuation of inflamed local wounds would contradict the healthy spirit of the new thinking, and would harbor the threat of further poisoning the international atmosphere, which has begun to clear up.

The fruitfulness of the restructuring in international affairs, particularly the matter of resolving regional conflicts, is confirmed by the outcome of the visit to the Soviet Union by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. At a press conference in Moscow the Palestinian leader described his visit to the USSR as "the most successful" in the whole history of his visits to this state. Why? Because at the talks in the Soviet capital practical attempts were made to clear away "stumbling blocks" barring the way to a solution of the region's problems.

At the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Yasir 'Arafat, the need was stressed to conduct a business-like dialogue on the basis of equal rights, taking into account the points of view and interests of all sides—both the Arabs, including the Palestinians, and Israel. Important amplifications have been introduced into the mechanism of the international conference, whose legal basis would be recognition by all those taking part of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and of the legal rights of the Palestinian people. It has been stipulated that intermediate measures should be examined and implemented within the framework of the international forum in coordination with its ultimate goals. In Moscow the idea of an all-Arab delegation at the conference met with understanding.

The talks in Moscow were held against a backcloth of positive shifts in the Arab region. The shift in relations between the PLO and Syria, in particular, was noted. The special significance of these relations was pointed out during the Soviet-Palestinian summit. At a press conference, Yasir 'Arafat made a positive appraisal of the "clear-cut Syrian position" announced after the meeting held between President Hafiz al-Asad and George Shultz a few days ago.

Visit Reaffirms PLO Ties

LD120914 Moscow TASS in English 0838 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—By TASS commentator Grigoriy Vasilyev:

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has ended his brief working visit to the USSR.

The visit was paid in one of the crucial periods of the courageous fight waged by the Palestinian people for the satisfaction of their inalienable rights to national determination and creation of their own independent state. The flames of popular uprising have been raging in the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Sector for the fifth month now. The Israeli punitive troops have proved to be unable to put them out despite the most cruel repressions comparable with the atrocities by the Nazis.

The popular uprising of the Palestinians, taking an active part in which are representatives of all the sectors of the one and a half million strong population of the occupied territories, has clearly demonstrated the pressing need for the settlement of the protracted Middle-East conflict, the resolution of the pivotal problem of that conflict—the Palestinian issue. It has also demonstrated the unbroken will of the people, who through the fault of the Israeli Zionists, are now in a position of a refugee nation, who have been for years getting through bitter deprivations and sufferings.

The high prestige of PLO among the Palestinians, wherever they may be, its organic links with the mass of the people, the knowledge of their needs and aspirations, the ability to guide their struggle flexibly and effectively has again been confirmed. PLO's realistic policy on Middle East settlement has won for it respect in the international arena, thwarted the attempts of the imperialist-Zionist circles at discrediting the organization and undermining its prestige.

Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the USSR, the results of his talks with the Soviet leadership have reaffirmed the strength of the Soviet-Palestinian relations, the principled and invariable solidarity of all the Soviet people with the selfless struggle waged by the Arab people of Palestine.

Qaddumi Denies TASS Account

AU121130 Rome ANSA in English 1051 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Rome, April 12 (ANSA)—The chief of the Palestine Liberation Organization Political Bureau, Faruq Qaddumi, denied the account of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting in Moscow with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat provided by the official Soviet news agency TASS and affirmed that Gorbachev did not speak of the need for the PLO to recognize the State of Israel and its right to national security.

In a statement given to the Italian state television network RAI Channel One over a hookup from Tunis, Qaddumi, who was present at the meeting under discussion, declared: "We did not hear any statement of this type from Gorbachev", with reference to the reported suggestion that the PLO recognize Israel.

"In his talk with us, he repeated the contents of earlier Soviet positions on the national rights of the Palestinian people and he confirmed to us Soviet support for our struggle", the PLO political department head said.

The issue of the recognition of Israel, he continued, "was not on the agenda and was not talked about".

Explaining what he said he thought might be a misunderstanding on the part of TASS, Qaddumi said: "Perhaps the flexibility of the Soviet tones and opinions of this most recent period led to an error on the part of the TASS agency and the other Moscow information media. But I repeat, we found no novelty in the Soviet position", he said.

Afghan Peace Agreements To Be Signed 14 Apr

Options Had Talks Failed

LD120951 Moscow World Service in English 0310 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpts] [Announcer] We start off the program with a look at some of the major world developments and some home news as we see them from Moscow. Looking at those events in our studio will be observer Yuriy Reshetnikov. [passage omitted on Gorbachev-Brandt meeting]

The Afghan Government has said that thousands of people voted this week in parliamentary elections, which started Tuesday and will run until 14 April. What's the latest news from that country?

[Reshetnikov] The Afghan Government reported peaceful and enthusiastic polling. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Earlier this week, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze went to Kabul to discuss options if the UN-mediated peace talks in Geneva failed. What do we hear on that score?

[Reshetnikov] The exact nature and contents of the discussions in Kabul have not been disclosed, but Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy told journalists in Moscow Wednesday that Soviet and Afghan officials are discussing and analyzing different options and variants of actions in all their (?aspects) if the Geneva process would not lead to the desired result. The desired result is a political settlement in and around Afghanistan that would faciliate the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country. The latest UN-mediated talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan began on 2 March in Geneva. Due to the last-minute hitches introduced by Pakistan and the United States the accord, which once seemed within sight, is being stalled.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union made it clear its decision to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan remains unchanged, with or without an accord in Geneva. The current Soviet position, shared by Afghanistan, is that we would prefer to withdraw our troops within the framework of a peace accord. But if there is no other choice, the troops will be withdrawn on joint Soviet and Afghan terms if the Geneva talks failed.

Hence you can understand the sensitive nature of Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Kabul, but we will hear more about that from other news developments. [passage omitted]

Shultz To Attend Signing

LD112315 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2207 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva, 12 Apr (TASS)—The signing of agreements on a political settlement around Afghanistan will take place in Geneva on 14 April. An official UN spokesman announced that the signing ceremony will be attended by J. Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations, on whose initiative the Afghan-Pakistani negotiations began in 1982 through the mediation of his personal representative, Diego Cordovez; and also by E.A. Shevardnadze, USSR minister of foreign affairs, and U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz. The Soviet Union and United States are appearing as international guarantors of the accords reached in Geneva.

The agreements regarding a political settlement envisage the obligations—based upon international law—of Pakistan and Afghanistan not to interfere in one another's affairs and to refrain from intervention, the creation of favorable conditions for the vountary return of refugees, and the creation of an appropriate mechanism for monitoring the sides' observance of their obligations.

Reportage on Afghan AN-26 Aircraft Attack

TV Shows Wreckage

LD112006 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; M. Leshchinskiy video report]

[Text] A fresh crime by Afghan extremists. [video shows Leshchinskiy inside airplane along with civilians crowded on benches along sides of fuselage, close-up of old woman passenger, suitcases on floor]

Literally a few hours after another tragedy in the skies of Afghanistan, we are flying along precisely the same route, into the area of the fresh crime by the extremists. As you can see, the type of aircraft is a military transport, for parachute landings, but the people on board are totally civilian—women, youths, and children. It was just the same on yesterday's flight, which was tragically cut short. Afghan Air Force transport aircraft are often used to carry civilians; there just are not enough civilian aircraft. [video shows view of landing strip from aircraft window, then view from a helicopter and half a dozen men, two in uniform, inside helicopter; view from air of wreckage on the ground]

The AN-26 aircraft with 29 passengers and crew on board took off at about 1500 from this airfield, from the provincial center of Maymaneh. Literally a few seconds later, it was brought down, and fell quite close to the airfield. Now we are continuing our journey by helicopter, with members of the State Commission and the search-and-rescue group. Here it is, the scene of the tragedy. All the people on board died, including eight women and several little children.

Still here at the scene of the tragegy, we are talking to Colonel (?Zahir), chairman of the Afghan Republic's Air Force State Commission. [video shows uniformed man against background of wreckage; Leshchinskiy provides overlaid translation] The investigation is still to come, but it is already clear that the aircraft was shot down by a U.S. Stinger missile. This crime is particularly cynical, because it has been perpetrated at a time when the whole Afghan people has learned with great enthusiasm about the Tashkent statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and President Najibullah, and when it has become known that Afghan-Pakistani talks have been successfully completed in Geneva and that the basic documents, which should guarantee peace in these lands, should be signed quite soon. The extremists have once again shown their true face here, near Maymaneh.

Commentary on Rebel Attacks

PM121135 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian
12 Apr 88 First Edition p 3

[Article by S. Volovets under the rubric "The World Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow": "Afghanistan: Who Needs To Instill Terror on the Eve of the Settlement of the Conflict"]

[Text] Information agencies have distributed a report from Afghanistan: On Sunday, a transport and passenger aircraft flying from Maymaneh to Mazar-e Sharif was brought down by a "surface-to-air" missile. Another 29 people were added to the tragic list. On the same day, the city of Maymaneh came under missile and artillery attack. Women and children were among the casualties.

We still do not know what kind of missile brought the aircraft down—an American "Stinger" or a British "Blowpipe"—or what kind of weapons were used in the attack on residential areas in Maymaneh. This is not the essential issue, but the fact that armed opposition detachments have stepped up their terrorist actions just at the time when the country's elections to the National Council—the republic's parliament—are at their height. At a time when the number of repatriates returning home increases with every day, a peaceful life is being built, amd the wounds left by the conflict are beginning to heal. And, the main point, they thereby intend to demonstrate the strength of the opposition fighters in Pakistan who have said that they are under no obligation to observe the decisions which, everyone hopes, will soon be reached at the Afghan-Pakistani Geneva talks.

To simple common sense, these acts of terrorism may seem senseless brutality. Yes, this is true. Almost 800,000 Afghans have voted in the elections so far in favor of the national reconciliation policy. With the blood of these people the opposition is rejecting dialogue with its own people and rejecting a settlement of the conflict.

Although Geneva is literally one step away from an agreement and although it was firmly stated in Tashkent that there are no political obstacles left in the way of achieving peace in Afghanistan, this path is still being mined. Primarily by the "intransigents" or "Alliance of Seven" in Pakistan, who are prepared to sacrifice thousands more of their compatriots on the altar of their own personal arrogant ambitions and political extremism. They are backed by those who supply their armed detachments with the very latest weapons.

Here is a piece of news you cannot pass by if you are aware of the imminent settlement and forthcoming withdrawal of the Soviet contingent from the country. According to THE WASHINGTON POST, opposition detachments operating from the Afghan-Pakistani border region are "receiving new weapons, including 'TOW' antitank missiles and antitank guns."

They will also be aimed at the agreement and the reconciliation policy in Afghanistan. And the direct victims will be the kind of Afghans who were the subjects of the latest report.

Supreme Soviet Delegation Completes Gulf Tour

Meets Kuwaiti Prime Minister

LD092358 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2000 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwaiti Prime Minister al-Sabah has received a special mission of the USSR Supreme Soviet that is visiting Persian Gulf countries. During the conversation, the sides expressed satisfaction with the development of Soviet-Kuwaiti relations and noted a coincidence of view points on world problems.

'Growing Concern' Over War

LD111238 Moscow TASS in English 1000 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait City April 11 TASS—The special mission of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by Georgiy Tarazevich, vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has ended its tour of the Persian Gulf countries. The special mission also included deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet: Muminsho Kanoatov, first secretary of the board of the Writers Union of the Tajik SSR, and Sergey Losev, TASS director general. The Soviet MP's visited the United Arab Emirates, the Oman Sultanate and Kuwait, where they were received by the heads of state and held talks with officials.

The meetings and talks held have borne out that the Persian Gulf countries are displaying growing concern about the eight year old Iran-Iraq war and insist on an immediate end to it. It was placed on record that the conflict is fraught with a threat to the security and freedom of navigation in the Gulf, creates a pretext for a buildup of the naval forces of foreign powers in its waters. The Soviet proposal on their pullout from the Gulf and replacement with an international naval force under the U.N. flag has, as before, the support of the countries of the region, although standing in the way of implementation of that proposal are the selfish ambitions of those who would like to consolidate and broaden their military presence in the Gulf.

Touching upon the Middle East problem and the Palestine issue, the statesmen of the Persian Gulf countries reaffirmed that the half-way capitulatory plans for settlement forced on the Arabs by the USA are unacceptable to them. They declared support for the national Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, evaluating it as a manifestation of the firm determination of the Palestinian Arabs to ensure the restoration in full of their national rights, including the right to self-determination and creation of an independent national state. The exceptional significance was stressed of convocation of an international conference to ensure a just, all-embracing peace in the region, and gratitude was expressed to the Soviet Union for the principled support of the vital interests of the Arab peoples.

The preparedness expressed by the Soviet Union and Afghanistan to leave in force the agreement reached between them that the return of the Soviet troops home from Afghanistan will begin on May 15 if the Geneva agreements are signed between them within the shortest time possible has been met with understanding and approval.

The leaders and officials of the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Kuwait have expressed approval of the Soviet peace initiatives aimed at ensuring general security. They showed profound interest in the process of reconstruction of the socio-economic development of the society currently underway in the USSR. Satisfaction was expressed with the state of bilateral relations between the Persian Gulf countries and the Soviet Union, and the wish was stressed for their further strengthening and development in various fields.

Telegrams Exchanged With Iraq Marking Treaty

Presidium Sends Greetings

LD080938 Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government have sent a message of greetings to Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council and president of the Republic of Iraq, and to the friendly people of Iraq on the occasion of the 16th anniversary since the signing of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iraq. The telegramme, addressed to Saddam Husayn, reaffirms the Soviet Union's wish to continue strengthening the relations of friendship and fruitful cooperation with Iraq for the benefit of the two countries, in the interests of the principles of general peace and security and the just settlement of regional conflicts.

Saddam Husayn conveyed warmest congratulations and best wishes to the friendly Soviet people in a telegramme addressed to the Soviet leadership on the occasion of the anniversary. Iraq reaffirms its wish, the telegramme runs, to continue develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union to benefit the peoples of the two countries, to help establish stability and security in the region and achieve peace and progress in the world.

Iraqi, Soviet Messages

JN081323 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn and the Soviet leaders exchanged cables of congratulations on the 16th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union.

Iraq and the Soviet Union in their cables reaffirmed their desire to continue developing their relations in a manner that will serve their common interests and enhance the possibilities for attaining peace and security.

President Saddam Husayn sent a cable to Andrey Gromyko, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman, and to Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The cable says: Mr Andrey Gromyko, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers: On the 16th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union, it gives me pleasure to extend to both of you and to the Soviet leadership sincere congratulations and my best wishes.

The treaty was established on the basis of mutual respect of sovereignty, independence, fruitful cooperation between our countries, and the desire for sound bases for the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union. Iraq reaffirms its desire to continue developing these relations in a manner that will serve the legitimate interests of both our people, enhance the possibilities for attaining peace and security in the region, and serve mankind's aspirations for peace and progress.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq

President Saddam Husayn received a cable from the Soviet leaders on this occasion. The cable says:

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman and president of the Republic of Iraq: On the 16th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Iraq, we would like to extend to you and to the Iraqi people our warm congratulations and best wishes.

The treaty guarantees the development of the multifaceted relations and the common interests existing between the Soviet Union and Iraq, and constantly serves the interests of the two people in the two countries.

We affirm the Soviet Union's desire to continue developing the fruitful relations of friendship and cooperation with Iraq in the interests of both our countries and to entrench the principles for comprehensive peace, world security, and a just solution to regional conflicts.

[Signed] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The USSR Council of Ministers

Soviet-Indian Technology Session Ends in Delhi

LD080410 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1130 GMT 7 Apr 88

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The first session of the joint Soviet-Indian Council on Science and Technology has ended in Delhi. The main results of the session are reflected in the protocol signed by the council's cochairmen: Academician Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; and Professor Chintamani Rao, chairman of the Consultative Committee on Science of the Government of India. Problems of importance to both countries were resolved in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere. The first steps have been taken toward implementing the comprehensive long-term scientific and technological cooperation program between the two countries, signed last summer by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Speaking at a press conference, Prof Rao noted as a particular success that the direct contacts established recently between leading scientists and research organizations of the Soviet Union and India have made it possible to remove many bureaucratic obstacles.

Academician Marchuk listed impressive examples of scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries: research in the area of nuclear physics and powder metallurgy; searches for minerals; and the elaboration and production of new medicines. Joint work along these lines has already begun.

It was stressed at the press conference that the level of current scientific cooperation between the Soviet Union and India has no equal in the world.

East Europe

CSSR's Husak Continues Moscow Working Visit

Further on Welcome

PM121147 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "On an Official Visit"]

[Text] G. Husak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and CSSR president, arrived in Moscow 11 April on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

He was warmly greeted at the aircraft ramp at Vnukovo airport by A.A. Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman, and E.A. Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR foreign minister.

The ceremony was attended by USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Deputy Chairmen V.P. Orlov and A.F. Ryuytel; T.N. Menteshashvili, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium secretary; A.N. Volkov, USSR minister of civil aviation; V.P. Loginov, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs; V.P. Lomakin, USSR ambassador to the CSSR; and other officials.

J. Rehorek, CSSR ambassador to the USSR was in the welcoming party.

The Czechoslovak and Soviet state flags were hoisted at the airport. An honor guard of representatives of the three branches of the USSR Armed Forces—the Ground Forces, the Air Force, and the Navy—was drawn up on the tarmac. A band played the two countries' state anthems.

A.A. Gromyko and G. Husak inspected the lineup of Soviet servicemen.

The welcome ceremony ended with a march-past by the honor guard.

The streets and squares of the capital through which the motorcade with a motorcycle escort passed were decked with the two countries' state flags and greetings banners.

Officials Attend Dinner

LD112032 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] A dinner was given today in the Great Kremlin Palace in honor of Comrade Husak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and CSSR President, on behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Present with the guest were the Czechoslovak officials accompanying him on his visit. From the Soviet side were Comrades Gromyko, Vorotnikov, Shevardnadze, Demichev, Lukyanov, and Medvedev, deputy chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR Ministers, chairmen of USSR State Committees, and other officials.

Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman gave a speech at the dinner. Gustav Husak responded. Their speeches were received with applause. The texts of their speeches are being published in the press. The dinner passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Gromyko Speaks at Dinner

PM121443 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report on speech delivered by A.A. Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR Presidium chairman, at 11 April Kremlin dinner, published under the general heading "USSR-CSSR: Determination To Strengthen Friendship and Cooperation": "Comrade A.A. Gromyko's Speech"]

[Text] Dear Comrade Husak!

Dear Czechoslovak friends!

Comrades!

It gives me great pleasure to greet you, Comrade Gustav Husak, and the persons accompanying you.

Your present visit is considered in our country as an important event in the development of relations between the Soviet Union and fraternal Czechoslovakia. The talks which have taken place today have again confirmed a unity of principle in our approach to the development of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations and the coincidence of the main guiding lines in the resolving of the large-scale tasks which arise before our countries in the new stage of socialist construction. I think your current visit is a good occasion to recall the facts which shine like diamonds in the garland of Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship woven by our peoples.

Soviet people do not forget that Czechoslovaks were among the first foreign soldiers to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Army in battles with fascism at the main front of World War II, and Captain Otakar Jaros was the first foreigner awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

There are sacred places of Soviet-Czechoslovak brotherhood where our soldiers shed their blood together. We remember Sokolovo in Kharkov Oblast where the first

Czechoslovak battalion formed in the USSR started its combat with fascism and where Soviet and the first Czechoslovak servicemen who died on our land rest in peace.

A tall obelisk has been erected in a field near the the town of Milin, some dozens of kilometers south of Prague. There Soviet Army troops and Czechoslovak partisans fought with "SS" and Wehrmacht regular units—the last combat in the annals of World War II in Europe.

In the wall of a local church nearby one can still see an unexploded artillery shell that became lodged there—a sort of relic preserved from those days. It is rightfully called the last shell of World War II in Europe.

On monuments erected on the ashes of Soviet soldiers and the Czechoslovak people's avengers, who died in those places, the date of their death is written—12 May 1945—3 days after the great victory celebration. Thus, the echo of that first joint combat near a Soviet village could be heard near a Czech town where, in their last battle, Czechoslovaks and Soviet soldiers were together hand in hand and gave their lives for a just cause.

Many years have passed, yet the events in which our peoples become related by the blood they shed are remembered both by those who witnessed everything that happened and by their descendants.

The selfless struggle of the best sons of the Czechoslovak people against fascism, the heroism of the participants in the Slovak national uprising, and the courage of Prague which rose against the invaders and to whose help Soviet troops came, will remain in people's memory forever. An inviolable alliance between our states came into being in the postwar period. We now have every reason to note the unity between our parties, our peoples, fully resolved to preserve and strengthen in the joint creative work the fraternal friendship and cooperation between the USSR and socialist Czechoslovakia.

The ties between our countries are steadily developing. We can be satisfied with their condition, with state of public contacts, and with exchanges between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the CSSR Federal Assembly. At the same time, life requires that these ties should be constantly improved further and enriched and that our experience, as well as that of other fraternal countries, in the important sphere of state construction and interstate relations should be attentively studied and mutually used.

Now, during the period of restructuring, the development of close economic ties assumes special significance. Tasks of further improving the structure of trade turnover and also the application of progressive methods of cooperation, in particular the further deepening of coordination within industries and specialization, the development of direct ties between the plants and associations of both sides, and the setting up of joint enterprises come to the forefront.

We are only taking first steps along this path and quite a number of unsolved problems are still to be found here. It is possible and necessary to secure scope to introduce all that is new and progressive and the deep economic reforms being implemented in the USSR and CSSR create the necessary preconditions for this.

Democratization of the country's sociopolitical life represents one of the most important conditions of restructuring. It can be said outright that the idea proclaimed by M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, "more democracy, more socialism" is taking hold of the wide masses of the Soviet people. The implementation of this idea, the carrying out of radical transformations with the participation of the working people, transformations that are in keeping with this criterion, will more widely open the creative potential of our social system.

The elimination of difficulties which arise along the path of restructuring is helped by one of its most important factors—glasnost, which is firmly entering our realities. The life and the activity of Soviet people in conditions of genuine democracy and glasnost can only strengthen our system.

The 19th All-Union Party Conference, at which the results of the work which has been done since the 27th CPSU Congress will be summed up, will assemble in the summer of this year. Among other imminent tasks, the basic directions for the improvement of the activity of the bodies of state power and administration will be mapped out. The question of improving the electoral system will also be on the agenda.

We want the Soviets of people's deputies to be genuine centers of socialist self-government, where all the basic questions of the development of the relevant territory, and the life and everyday activities of each family, are tackled. In other words, we want the soviets really to be bodies with full rights and powers and at the same time to be fully responsible for their activities before those people have elected them.

Everyone is well aware that Czechoslovakia is a country with a highly developed industry and bountiful grain-growing areas. At the same time, it is a state with a well-organized services sphere and with well-equipped towns and villages. There is nothing shameful in the fact that our comrades, in solving similar questions, should acquire the good experience which exists in your country.

The practice of daily life shows that all-around cooperation between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia in international affairs has become an integral part of the lives of our fraternal parties, states, and peoples. The exchange of opinions during the course of your visit, Comrade Husak, reaffirms both countries' resolve to continue and to strengthen our interaction in the international arena. The signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles has created more favorable conditions for progress along the path of real disarmament. The withdrawal ahead of schedule of Soviet missiles from the territory of the CSSR and the GDR testifies to our willingness to fulfill our obligations according to the treaty. This step of goodwill on the part of the Soviet Union and its allies can serve as a concrete example of our striving for a stable peace, the establishment of good-neighborly relations, and the advancement of the process of disarmament in Europe and throughout the world.

The talks in Geneva on a 50-percent reduction in the strategic offensive weapons of the USSR and the United States while observing the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972, and adhering to it for an agreed period, are currently at the center of the attention of the world public. One would wish to hope that the visit by the U.S. President to the Soviet Union, planned for the end of May-beginning of June this year, will be marked with progress in this direction also.

It is with satisfaction that we note the notable activation in recent times of the foreign policy activity of Czechoslovakia and of other countries of socialism, united by the spirit of high responsibility for the fate of the world.

This is why we fully support the initiative of the CSSR on the establishment, along the line of contact between the two military groupings, of a zone of confidence, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations. The implementation of this initiative would, undoubtedly, facilitate the weakening of military confrontation in Europe, and progress in the cause of building an "All-Europe Home."

The Soviet Union has stated on many occasions that it is up to the peoples themselves to determine their destinies without promptings and pressure from outside. It is only on the basis of such fundamental principles that the resolution of regional conflicts is possible. This also applies in full to Afghanistan, which is on the threshold of a long-awaited peace.

Today, as ever, the thoughts of the majority of people are directed to peace. How apposite sounds the wise appeal of Jan Amos Komensky, the great Czech pedagogue and thinker of the 17th century: "It is better not to start war but to prevent it through peaceful negotiations...enough of destructive wars which have brought the European continent to the brink of ruin...Politicians! Do all you can to preserve peace, choose peace, not war, as your life's goal!" This is a good appeal from a clever man of the past to the present-day generation of people! There are many monuments to this humanitarian and enlightener in Czechoslovakia.

I would like to finish the same way I began. Past events remind today's generations about the need to do all they can to strengthen Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship as one of the greatest achievements of our peoples. It gives them greater strength to work for the benefit of creating a new society and securing a more stable peace for all of mankind.

Let me express confidence that the CZCP Central Committee plenum which was held the other day in Prague gives a powerful stimulus to the revolutionary transition to intensive development, to the organic combination of socialism with scientific and technical progress, and to the achievement of a qualitatively new level of development of socialist society in the interests of the people. All this together can only strengthen the international prestige of socialism.

In conclusion Andrey Gromyko wished Gustav Husak and all the Czechoslovak Comrades present at the dinner great successes in solving the tasks of enormous importance mapped out by socialist Czechoslovakia.

Husak Delivers Speech

PM121140 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report on speech delivered by G. Husak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and CSSR president, at 11 April Kremlin dinner, published under the general heading "USSR-CSSR: Determination To Strengthen Friendship and Cooperation": "Comrade G. Husak's Speech"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Gromyko!

Esteemed comrades!

Permit me wholeheartedly to thank the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium for the invitation, and for the cordial reception and hospitality we have sensed since the first moments of our stay in the Soviet Union.

I would also like to express sincere gratitude for the kind words about the Czechoslovak people and the CPCZ and for the high assessments of the friendship between our fraternal peoples.

The cordial atmosphere of our talks with Andrey Andreyevich, their constructive spirit, openness, and the total unity of views on all the questions discussed are further evidence of the lasting alliance and fruitful cooperation between our Communist parties and the indissoluble alliance and friendship of our countries and peoples. These bonds have become a most valuable gain for us, they have been tested in the course of historical development, they have their origins in sympathies toward the new Soviet state, and were sealed by blood shed jointly in the struggle against fascism, a struggle in which the Soviet Army made a decisive contribution to our peoples' winning freedom. In the long years of mutual cooperation in the course of socialist building these ties have been further strengthened, and are today the most reliable guarantee of our state's sovereignty and security and the Czechoslovak people's peaceful labor.

We regard our talks as the logical continuation of numerous talks between leaders of our Communist parties and states, an implementation of the results of last year's visit to Czechoslovakia by M.S. Gorbachev, a visit that imprinted itself forever on our people's consciousness, and a continuation of the talks between the general secretaries of our communist parties' Central Committees, M.S. Gorbachev and M. Jakes, in January of this year. In the course of our talks we discussed Czechoslovak-Soviet relations in detail. We placed a high value on the fact that mutual cooperation covering all spheres of public life has acquired wide scope and is developing successfully for the benefit of both countries' peoples. At the same time the mutual determination was reaffirmed still more intensively to seek a new quality in the development of cooperation and the deepening of mutual ties in the political, economic, ideological, and other spheres.

In our conversations we emphasized the key significance of achieving higher effectiveness of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and strengthening it. In this connection we stressed the need to make more effective use of the opportunities offered by our vast potential and to move resolutely forward by making use of fundamentally new, higher forms of cooperation, such as direct ties between enterprises, the creation of joint enterprises and organizations, the expansion of specialization and production sharing, especially in machine building, and more profound coordination in science, technology, and other sectors. We are convinced that a milestone along this path will be the prospectus for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union for the period through the year 2000 that is now in preparation.

Cooperation in the sphere of culture, education, and science plays an important role in the cause of deepening reciprocal ties. Its further deepening will be promoted by the documents signed today, the "Protocol on Establishing an Intergovernmental Commission on Cooperation in the Sphere of Culture, Education, and Science Between the CSSR and the USSR" and the "Agreement Between the CSSR Government and the USSR Government on the Formation and Activity of a CSSR Culture and Information Center in the Soviet Union."

In the course of the talks we did not avoid discussing existing problems and difficulties connected with our entry into the new stage of cooperation.

At the 17th CPCZ Congress we outlined bold objectives and crucial tasks—accelerating socioeconomic development, ensuring scientific and technical progress, improving the people's material and cultural conditions, and deepening socialist democracy.

For us, it is of fundamental significance that today, as in the past, in carrying out the tasks set we can draw on the experience of the fraternal parties, first and foremost the Leninst CPSU. We find particularly inspiring the theoretical and practical results of the 27th CPSU Congress and subsequent Central Committee plenums and the bold approach and innovative methods in the revolutionary restructuring of Soviet society. They give us an example and support in tackling our own tasks and problems.

Making use of all the available experience, we consistently continue to develop and further refine the line of the program defined by the congress. After the Seventh CPCZ Central Committee Plenum, held last December, and 2 years of preparation, we have now embarked on comprehensive restructuring. The recent ninth plenum of our party's Central Committee reaffirmed this course of restructuring and democratization of society and mobilized the entire party to fulfill it.

Although the implementation of this program line meets with wide support among the working people, it will be no easy matter to put it into practice. However, we consider this line essential to the further development of socialism.

As we noted in the course of today's talks, our visit is taking place during a period when a positive influence is exerted on the international situation by the signing of the historic Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-range Missiles.

We fully support the Soviet Union's proposal to regard this document as a starting point for further important steps along the path to a nuclear-free world and the signing of a treaty on a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive arms together with consistent compliance with the ABM Treaty and without allowing a situation where simultaneously with disarmament in one avenue, a race is developing in others. A convincing proof of the socialist states' good will to make progress in the nuclear disarmament process is the withdrawal of the Soviet OTR-22 [operational-tactical missiles] from the territory of the CSSR and the GDR even before the treaty's ratification. We support all efforts aimed at achieving a general and complete ban on nuclear weapon tests and banning and eliminating chemical weapons. We also attach fundamental significance to agreeing on a mandate for the talks which are to begin this year on a reduction in armed forces and conventional arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, as well as to the speediest successful completion of the Vienna meeting of representatives of the CSCE states.

We also see new opportunities in a number of other avenues leading to disarmament, the strengthening of trust, and the development of multilateral cooperation on the continent, as is stated in the "Appeal to the NATO Member States and All Countries Participating in the CSCE," adopted by the foreign ministers at their recent session in Sofia.

We regard the proposal of Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, on creating a zone of trust, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations along the line where the Warsaw Pact states and the NATO countries meet, and also the statement of the CPCZ, the SED, and the SPD [Social Democratic Party] on banning chemical weapons as topical contributions of our own to the attainment of these goals.

The enterprising, flexible approach of the Soviet Union and the socialist community countries is meeting with increasingly wide international support and finding a response among realistically minded Western circles. The growing awareness of the need to tackle questions of international security in the spirit of the principles of cooperation between countries with different social systems gives us the hope that in spite of all the obstacles, it will prove possible to ensure peaceful prospects for mankind.

I am convinced that I am expressing the common opinion when I say that the course and results of our talks will help to further deepen friendly ties between our states and peoples and create the conditions for more intensive development of our cooperation in all spheres, in the interests of our two countries' peoples and in the interests of the cause of socialism, peace, and progress.

Permit me on behalf of the CPCZ Central Committee, the CSSR Government, and all the Czechoslovak people and on my own account to convey sincere greetings to the Soviet people and all Soviet Communists and wish you happiness and prosperity, peace, and great successes in the implementation of revolutionary restructuring and in labor for the well-being and prosperity of the Soviet Union.

Gromyko, Husak Sign Communique

PM121153 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 88 Second Edition pp 1,4

[TASS report under the headline "Friendly Visit"]

[Text] A. A. Gromyko and G. Husak held talks in the Kremlin on 12 April. Taking part in the talks on the Soviet side were Comrade Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR minister of foreign affairs, V.P. Lomakin, USSR ambassador to the CSSR, and other officials; on the Czechoslovak side were Comrade Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, Jindrich Rehorek, CSSR ambassador to the USSR, and other officials.

The sides informed each other about the implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 17th CPCZ Congress directed at speeding up the socioeconomic development of the USSR and the CSSR. Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko talked about the progress of the restructuring launched on a wide-scale in the country, the democratization and renewal of all aspects of the life of Soviet society, and topical problems of socioeconomic development of the USSR.

It was stressed that being put forward on the agenda as central issues are matters relating to the ideological provision of restructuring, reconstruction of the political, system, which proposes a more precise demarcation of functions of state and party bodies, removal of formalism, and giving new impetus to the work of soviets of people's deputies, and the strengthening of law and order and legality. The 19th All-Union Party Conference will assist in solving these tasks.

The implementation of profound qualitative transformations in all spheres of social life is helped by the adoption of a number of important laws, which are intended to bring the powerful force of the human factor into play. During their preparation the experience accumulated by socialist countries was taken into account.

Attention was also devoted to matters relating to the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet in further improving relations between the nationalities that is being carried out in a spirit of the unshakable nature of the Leninist principles of the nationalities' policy, and the friendship and cohesion of the fraternal peoples of the USSR.

Gustav Husak gave an account of the results of the CPCZ Central Committee April 1987 Plenum and the substance of the changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, the aim of which is to implement a comprehensive program of restructuring, radical economic reform, an democratization in all spheres of life in society. The CSSR president stressed that this demands new approaches to the style and methods of work of the CPCZ with the aim of further enhancing its leading role, deepening its links with the masses, and enhancing the contribution of working people to the implementation of restructuring.

The sides noted that the coincidence in common directions of the processes of restructuring in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, despite certain specifics, is creating favorable preconditions for the further dynamic development of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations. Matters relating to deepening economic cooperation between the USSR and the CSSR, and to improving its mechanisms in the spirit of the principled accords achieved at summit level, were examined. It was noted that the intensification of the economy, the effective utilization of the achievements of the scientific-technical revolution, and the implementation of pressing structural changes in the national economy of both countries requires the more vigorous introduction of new forms of further development of ties in the sphere of education and culture, the expansion of communications between working people, the invigoration of contacts between twinned towns and oblasts and production collectives, and also of border links. Note was made of the importance of deepening the system of socialist self-management, with due regard for the specific features of both countries. This concerns primarily enhancing the role of representative bodies of authority, labor collective and social organizations, and the restructuring of the activity of the state administrative apparatus.

It was stressed that the broad implementation of the principles of democracy and glasnost were a sure guarantee against administrative and bureaucratic perversions of socialism. During examination of topical matters relating to world politics, complete unity of views in assessing the current situation in Europe and the world as a whole was confirmed. Gustav Husak highly commended the efforts of the Soviet Union directed at concluding a treaty on intermediate and shorter-range missiles, and at elaborating a treaty for a 50-percent cut in strategic offensive weapons. He also noted that the new political thinking—the need for the formation of which has frequently been stressed by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, should be applied in approaches to the resolution of matters of foreign policy, primarily its key problems. Such an attitude would onlyt strengthen positive tendencies in international affairs.

During the course of examining the range of European security problems, the sides expressed the hope that the Vienna meeting would come to a successful conclusion, and that political decisions would be adopted to further strengthen European security and cooperation. The Soviet side voiced complete support for the proposal of Comrade Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, to set up a zone of trust, cooperation and goodneighborly relations along the line where the two military alliances face each other.

The resolve of the USSR and the CSSR to continue to interact vigorously with all socialist countries to implement the initiatives put forward by the Warsaw Pact member states, aimed at removing the nuclear threat and creating an all-embracing international security system, was emphasized. During the talks, regional conflicts, which are maintained and fanned by forces that are often situated far beyond the confines of specific regions, were appraised.

Comrades Gromyko and Husak noted with satisfaction that the constructive interaction among the sides taking part in the process of settling the situation around Afghanistan facilitated the elimination of impediments that have arisen in the course of the Geneva talks. The signing of the Geneva package of the agreement will take place in the next few days. This will exert beneficial influence on solving the national reconciliation problems within Afghanistan. The USSR and the CSSR expressed their firm resolve to interact on the international arena in the interests of strengthening universal peace and security.

The talks passed in a warm, comradely atmosphere, characteristic of the fraternal relations between the Peoples of the USSR and CSSR.

Soviet-Czechoslovak documents were signed in the Kremlin today, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko and Gustav Husak signed a joint Soviet-Czechoslovak communique.

Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze and Bohuslav Chnoupek signed an agreement between the USSR and CSSR Governments on the setting up and activities of a Czechoslovak cultural and information center in the USSR, a protocol on setting up an intergovernmental commission on cooperation in the field of culture, education, and science between the two countries, and also a protocol on cooperation between the USSR Foreign Ministry and the CSSR Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Soviet and Czechoslovak officials who took part in the talks were present at the signing of the documents.

Meets With Gorbachev

LD120714 Moscow TASS in English 0710 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—A meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Gustav Husak, member of the Presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee, president of Czechoslovakia, has opened in the Kremlin today.

Gustav Husak arrived in Moscow in the afternoon yesterday.

Husak Lays Wreath

LD121029 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] CSSR president Gustav Husak, visiting our country, today honored the memory of the founder of the Communist Party and the Soviet state and laid a wreath at the mausoleum of Vladimir Ilich Lenin. The guest also laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Kremlin Hall.

Shevardnadze Meets Leaders

LD121114 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] A meeting was held in Moscow today between Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR minister of foreign affairs, and Chnoupek, CPCZ Central Committee member and CSSR minister of foreign affairs, who is in the Soviet

Union in connection with the official friendly visit of Gustav Husak. During their conversation the ministers discussed certain aspects of bilateral relations and the priority tasks in the strengthening of positive tendencies in the development of the international situation. The sides exchanged opinions on a broad range of international issues. They expressed satisfaction with the results of the session of the committee of Warsaw Pact states' foreign ministers which took place in Sofia and with the accords reached there on stepping up efforts to achieve fresh agreements on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons, preventing an arms race in space, eliminating chemical weapons, and ending nuclear tests.

Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze stated that the Soviet side fully supports the CSSR's new integrated initiative on the creation of a zone of trust, cooperation, and neighborly relations along the line where the Warsaw Pact member-states and the NATO countries meet, and that it attaches much importance to its practical implementation in the context of measures to strengthen European and universal security.

The ministers discussed issues connected with Afghanistan. Chnoupek gave a high appraisal to the joint Soviet-Afghan statement of 7 April. The political realism displayed by all participants in the Afghan settlement was noted. The sides expressed firm support for the policy of national reconciliation being followed by the Afghan Government, which is a reliable platform for the resolution of problems within Afghanistan.

Dobrynin Meets Jakes During Prague Visit

LD112139 Moscow TASS in English 2107 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Prague April 11 TASS—General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Milos Jakes today received here Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin heading the CPSU delegation that arrived in Prague for a conference of representatives of Communist and workers' parties to discuss the work of the journal "PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM" (The English version: "WORLD MARXIST REVIEW").

Information on the implementation of the decisions of the 17th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the 27th Congress of the CPSU was exchanged during the conversation. Some topical matters of Soviet-Czechoslovak cooperation and of the international situation were discussed.

When questions of the present-day political development were discussed, it was emphasized that the intensification of the struggle for the prevention of the threat of nuclear war, for disarmament and creation of a comprehensive system of international peace and security remains the central task. The conclusion of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles was a historic step on this road.

Milos Jakes noted that Czechoslovakia fully supports the efforts aimed at achieving a 50 percent cut in strategic offensive arms of the USSR and the USA with strict observance of the ABM Treaty. Anatoliy Dobrynin spoke highly of Czechoslovakia's proposal to create a zone of confidence-building and cooperation, of good-neighbourly relations along the line of contacts between Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries as a concrete contribution to the strengthening of security in Europe and the whole world.

Hungarian Liberation Anniversary Celebrated

LD011917 Budapest MTI in English 1838 GMT 1 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, April 1 (MTI)—On Friday in the House of Societies a meeting was held to commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the liberation of Hungary. At the meeting Georgiy Smirnov, president of the central leadership of the CPSU CC Marxism-Leninism Institute and Sandor Rajnai, the ambassador of Hungary to the Soviet Union held addresses. Representatives of the workers of the Soviet capital and the senior officials of the Hungarian representation offices in Moscow were present.

On Friday Sandor Rajnai on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of the liberation of Hungary laid a wreath at the Lenin Mausoleum and later at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

In the evening he gave a reception at the embassy, where Valentina Sevrenko, presidium president of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, deputy prime-minister Aleksey Antonov, deputy minister of foreign affairs Vadim Loginov and other Soviet leaders were present.

USSR Sends Greetings

PM121315 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[Message sent by USSR leadership bodies to Hungarian leaders on the 43d anniversary of the liberation of Hungary; date not given]

[Text] To Comrade Janos Kadar, general secretary of the MSZMP,

Comrade Karoly Nemeth, president of the Hungarian Presidential Council,

Comrade Karoly Grosz, premier of the Hungarian Council of Ministers.

Dear Comrades!

On behalf of the Soviet people the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers cordially congratulate you, the MSZMP Central Committee, the Hungarian Presidential Council and Council of Ministers, and the entire Hungarian people on the occasion of your national holiday—the 43d anniversary of Hungary's liberation from fascism.

In the last few decades fraternal Hungary has achieved considerable successes in building socialism. Soviet people relate with great understanding to the efforts of the communists and working people of Hungary, who are implementing the program of socioeconomic stabilization and developing their motherland, and assess highly the Hungarian public's support for the course of revolutionary restructuring and renewal in the Soviet Union.

Equitable internationalist relations between our parties and countries fully conform with the interests of the Soviet and Hungarian peoples. Comprehensive Soviet-Hungarian cooperation enriched with new forms can help to resolve the tasks of the present crucial state of development even better and more reliably.

We note with satisfaction the community of our approaches and goals and our mutual determination to strengthen our friendship and mutual understanding and jointly contribute to the normalization of the international situation and the creation of a nuclear-free nonviolent world.

On the day of fraternal Hungary's national holiday we wish you, dear comrades, Hungarian communists, and all Hungary's working people happiness and prosperity.

The CPSU Central Committee,

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium,

The USSR Council of Ministers.

Hungarian Leaders Reply

LD031045 Moscow TASS in English 1031 GMT 3 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—The leaders of the Hungarian People's Republic have expressed gratitude to the Soviet leaders for their congratulations and best wishes to the Hungarian people on the occasion of the national holiday—the 43rd anniversary of the liberation of Hungary from fascism.

"On the day of Hungary's liberation anniversary we greet the Soviet people with a feeling of respect and friendship," says the Hungarian leaders' telegram.

"We deeply honour the memory of the Soviet heroes who gave their lives for the freedom of the Hungarian people".

The Hungarian leaders wished the Soviet people further successes in the attainment of the goals of perestroyka.

West Europe

FRG 'Spy-Mania' Precedes Kohl USSR Visit

LD082042 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0925 GMT 8 Apr 88

["Concerning the Federal Chancellor's Coming Visit. Whom Does This Benefit?"—TASS headline; by TASS commentator I. Maslov]

[Text] [No dateline as received] Now when an announcement has been made in the press about the visit to the USSR in the fall of 1988 by FRG Federal Chancellor H. Kohl, statements have been published in the Federal Republic by politicians and public figures welcoming the visit. The hope is being expressed that it will serve to further develop interstate relations in the most diverse areas and will provide fresh impetus to Soviet-West German links.

Talks and consultations at various levels are now under way between the USSR and the FRG on creating mixed enterprises and on deepening economic, scientific, technological, and industrial cooperation. Thus, in March, a visit was made to the Soviet Union by F.W. Christians, chairman of the board of Deutsche Bank, who noted the active role of FRG business circles in imparting the proper constructiveness and dynamism to bilateral relations. It was noted that F.W. Christians' trip to the USSR was useful in preparing for the visit of the FRG chancellor to our country.

Indeed, one could go on with more such examples of the new thinking in Soviet-West German relations, the attitude of goodwill in the FRG toward the processes of restructuring, and the wish to alter West Germans' image of the Soviet Union as an "enemy."

Suddenly against the backdrop of these positive manifestations, something has occurred that is literally causing the ordinary Federal Republican citizen to shudder. It concerns the outbreak of a wave of spy-mania in West Germany. The tone for this was set by none other than K. Rebmann, FRG federal prosecutor-general. He has fabricated mythical "information" about nonexistent Soviet agents whom, he claims, are "damaging" the FRG's economic potential. On his instructions the FRG security service even organized a large-scale "action" to raid 33 apartments and offices. Of course, as has happened more than once, the "action" did not produce the desired results, but nevertheless it has been described in the most exaggerated forms by right-wing press publications, including the gutter magazine QUICK. Reactionaries were not sparing in "exposure" speeches on radio and television. It is a pity that this howl of anti-Soviet fabrications did not receive fitting condemnation at the official level.

Sober-minded observers in the FRG are focusing attention on the fact that the new splash of spy-mania is clearly timed to coincide with the present moment when Soviet-West German relations have noticeably warmed up and when the public, business circles, and even ordinary Germans, are all relating with great liking to the Soviet Union and to the revolutionary changes in Soviet society. One gets the impression that extreme right-wing forces in the Federal Republic are clearly sickened by such a development. They are doing everything possible to hinder the improvement of relations between the two countries.

FRG's Willy Brandt Interviewed on Moscow Talks

PM081531 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 88 Second Edition p 7

[Report on interview with Willy Brandt, chairman of the Socialist International and honorary chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, by Ye. Grigoryev in Moscow: "W. Brandt: 'Prospects Have Become Far Better'"; date not given]

[Text] For many Soviet people, the image of Willy Brandt is probably associated, above all, with the historic Moscow treaty between the USSR and the FRG, which he signed as FRG federal chancellor at the time. But this does not, of course, exhaust either his biography, or his political activity, or his wide international renown. He was for many years the leader of the West German Social Democrats'. Willy Brandt is now chairman of the Socialist International and honorary chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD].

His program in Moscow, where he has just been, was brief—just 2 days—and very strenuous in terms of the number of important meetings. Nevertheless, he found a "window" to share his impressions and thoughts for PRAVDA readers, starting the conversation with the chief event: his meeting with M.S. Gorbachev.

"Our conversation lasted over 4 hours," W. Brandt said. "The CPSU Central Committee general secretary said that he was pleased with it. I am very pleased as well. It was particularly important for me to hear directly from him elucidations about restructuring, the many domestic problems associated with it, and the influence of this process of renewal on international cooperation on a European scale and a world scale. What we spoke about—the interconnection between restructuring and questions of international security—sounded very reassuring.

"There was a wide range of topics: from questions of European and global security to North-South problems—that is, the position of developing countries. If this problem is not resolved, Gorbachev remarked, it presents the most explosive danger to the future, after the nuclear threat. We also discussed how—underpinned by the existing experience in information and consultations—to further advance cooperation between the CPSU, Social Democrats, and the Socialist International in those areas of mutual interest. In the conversation, I was most impressed by the determination and the wise purposefulness with which your leadership approaches problems of European cooperation and international security."

Reflecting on prospects for a more secure world, W. Brandt noted the significance of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. "In addition to its material content," he said, "it is also a great source of hope. It must be a foreword, not a complete chapter. It must be the starting point for further progress on the path of disarmament, particularly toward a Soviet-U.S. agreement on the reduction of strategic nuclear arms. We also hope that the convention on banning and eliminating chemical weapons, which is already to a considerable extent ready, will not be 'frozen' for too long. We said—and the general secretary agreed with this—that in the event of delays in Geneva over a global ban, we should once again tackle a project to create a zone free from chemical weapons at the center of Europe. Incidentally, on the very day of our Kremlin talks, three parties—the SPD, the SED, and the CPCZ—confirmed in Bonn, Berlin, and Prague their joint initiative concerning the aforesaid zone. In my view, the merit of this plan is that in realizing it, it would be possible to accumulate experience in resolving complex questions of verification. On the whole, I repeat, the INF Treaty inspires hope that it will be possible to secure—if not in all areas, in a number of the most important ones—specific new arms limitation agreements, with a view to nuclear disarmament."

I inquired about W. Brandt's attitude toward the concept of the "all-European home."

"M.S. Gorbachev raised this topical question in our conversation," he answered. "I think the time has come when not only the West and the East as a whole but also all interested European countries must try to concretize this concept. First, what this will mean for European security. To be specific, how to achieve equilibrium in conventional arms in Europe while lowering the levels of the two sides' existing potentials. Second, how to advance economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation, taking into account the differing nature of the integration processes taking place in different parts of Europe. The general secretary remarked, and I agree with him here, that the chief thing is to ensure that integration processes do not impede detente. Including in cases where, either in the West or the East, something is jointly undertaken in the military sphere, account must, without fail, be taken primarily of the interests of the European detente process. Economic integration in West Europe is not something bad in itself. But the West European Economic Community must not, of course, turn in on itself but remain open to cooperation with the Soviet Union and other East European countries. I think the time is coming when we in the FRG and you in the

Soviet Union must specifically discuss the problem of the 'all-European home.' The SPD is ready to create a joint working group with the CPSU to this end."

"Much is changing in our world. Compared with the way things were in the seventies," W. Brandt said, "it is easy to be convinced that the majority of the FRG political and public forces that opposed the Ostpolitik then have realized that they were wrong. I welcome this. It means that the public base of the sensible policy has broadened in our state." W. Brandt emphasized the importance of the public's active role, particularly in questions of survival. Opposition to the nuclear threat, the ecological threat, and other dangers, he said, must not be regarded as just the government's task. Enlightened public opinion, groups of the intelligentsia, broad sections of working people, and trade unions must, when necessary, push the government to resolve these problems. In this sense, the role and significance of the public can hardly be overestimated.

As for the dialogue of various political forces, the chairman of the Socialist International pointed out that experience has shown that on questions of disarmament and regional conflicts, and on a number of other problems, we can build and have built reasonable functional cooperation with the CPSU which must be continued.

It was natural to ask W. Brandt about his assessment of Soviet-West German relations.

"I will begin with a 'new page.' I think that, objectively speaking, a new page has already been turned. The problem is what will be written on this page. For a page is usually clean. What fills it will depend on our governments' discussion of specific questions of bilateral relations. They are very important. But questions of European security, above all, are important. They must remain an intensive topic of dialogue between the FRG and the Soviet Union. Given mutual understanding between Bonn and Moscow in the basic elements, it is easier to involve other countries in cooperation in favor of fundamental new steps in Europe. In short, I would like to see qualitatively enriched bilateral political consultations and accords which will boost the interests of European security. As for practical cooperation, when I chat with our economic circles, I get the impression that they see big opportunities here."

Another question: What can be expected from the future at the end of the 20th century? W. Brandt pondered, then said:

"Of course, you sometimes feel impatient because too much time is being spent on realizing many sensible ideas and things. But I have learned in my long life that there is no sense in yielding to pessimistic influences. On the contrary, it is necessary again and again to seek signs of phenomena and things which point the way to the future. If you compare the situation today with what it was, say, 5 years ago, the opportunities and prospects appear far better—above all, regarding the fact that we will not perish but manage to jointly build Europe's peaceful future."

"A nuclear-free world?"

"That is a sensible idea," W. Brandt concluded.

Tolkunov Receives FRG Bundestag Deputy

LD081252 Moscow TASS in English 1005 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet and chairman of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation, received SPD Bundestag Deputy Andreas von Buelow on Thursday here.

The expert of the Social Democratic Party of Germany on disarmament is in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet European Security Committee.

The conversation focused on issues of reducing military confrontation in Europe and participation of various socio-political forces in the practical implementation of the idea of a "common European home."

The West German visitor showed great interest in the perestroyka, or restructuring, drive in the economic, political and intellectual spheres of the life of Soviet society.

FRG Communist Urges 'Unequivocal' Arms Stand

LD091826 Moscow TASS in English 1726 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Bonn April 9 TASS—Herbert Mies, chairman of the German Communist Party, has called upon the West German Government to come out with constructive disarmament measures.

To build "our common European home" it would be exceedingly important for the FRG Government to take a clear-cut and unequivocal stand which meets the interests of peace, he underlined in his open letter to FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The chancellor repeatedly declared in support of further disarmament measures, said the leader of the West German Communists. If Bonn backed up its declarations with relevant deeds and initiatives, this would be of great significance for continuation of the disamament process.

But Bonn's policy now seems contradictory. It is high time for the chancellor to introduce clarity into this matter. Helmut Kohl should declare in no uncertain terms against any modernisation and the build up of the number of nuclear missiles in the FRG and other NATO countries, for a sharp reduction in American and Soviet nuclear short-range ground-based systems, for the "third zero option", believes the chairman of the German Communist Party.

The recent time has witnessed a whole number of significant initiatives aimed at disarmament and strengthening of confidence-building measures, which the West German Government could support or supplement, said Herbert Mies. He called upon the chancellor to actively promote implementation of the INF Treaty, the signing of a treaty on a 50 percent reduction in strategic offensive armaments of the USSR and the USA, an agreement on strict compliance with the ABM Treaty.

The leader of the West German Communists demanded support for all efforts aimed at prohibition of nuclear tests, undelayed conclusion of an international convention on universal and complete prohibition of chemical weapons, the early elaboration of the mandate of would-be negotiations on reduction of troops and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Austrian Defense Minister Visits Moscow

'Fact-Finding Trip'

LD102151 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2050 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna, 11 Apr (TASS)—Robert Lichal, Austrian minister of national defense, flies to the Soviet Union today on an official visit at the invitation of Army General D.T. Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense.

As Lichal has remarked, the visit is a "fact-finding trip during which the subjects of talks and inspections will include vital spheres of Austrian defense."

Welcomed by Yazov, Others

PM121617 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Official Visit"]

[Text] Robert Lichal, Austrian federal minister of defense, arrived on an official visit to the Soviet Union on 11 April at the invitation of Army General D.T. Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister.

The guest and the officials accompanying him were met at Sheremetyevo Airport by Army Gen D.T. Yazov; Marshal of Aviation A.N. Yefimov, commander in chief of the Air Force and USSR deputy defense minister; Colonel General V.N. Lobov, first deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff; Army General S.I. Postnikov, first deputy commander in chief of the Ground Forces; Colonel General D.A. Grinkevich, chief of the Ground Forces Main Staff and first deputy commander in chief of the Ground Forces; and others.

H. Grubmayer, Austrian ambassador to the USSR, was among the welcoming party.

The Austrian and Soviet flags were hoisted at the airport, an honor guard was drawn up on the runway, and the two countries' national anthems were played.

UK Home Office Briefs Newsmen on Alleged Nazis

PM071057 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

[Special correspondent A. Lyutyy dispatch: "The Trial Is Still a Long Way Off.... Reflections After a Briefing in Britain's Home Office"]

[Text] London, 1 Apr—A telephone call from the Home Office. A secretary's polite voice:

"We would like a PRAVDA representative to attend a special briefing on war criminals in Britain."

On the appointed day, former Director of Public Prosecutions Thomas Hetherington and former Crown Agent for Scotland William Chalmers sat down to face a handful of British and foreign journalists. It became clear from their very first words: The briefing had been organized to prove that Britain is not standing still on the investigation of Nazi crimes.

It must be said for objectivity's sake that London, which—despite its well- known obligations as an ally—could hardly have been suspected over the years of wishing to seek out Hitlerites who have found refuge here, is now beginning to take the first timid steps. It was forced to do so by the strength of public opinion. The investigation was headed by the aforementioned Hetherington and Chalmers. They have so far refused to name specific criminals, attributing this action to the possibility that someone might undeservedly come under suspicion before all the facts have been clarified. But the names of some of them are well known. They include someone by the name of Antanas Gekas [name as published], resident of Edinburgh. As a lieutenant in a Lithuanian police battalion formed by the fascists, he distinguished himself by particular cruelty toward his compatriots. Or Paulis Reynkhards [name as published], who lives not far from London. During the occupation of Latvia, he was head of the local labor department: His main "labors" were in the sphere of sending people to concentration camps.

"The accusations which have been made are serious, and they cannot be ignored. We will conduct the investigation along all avenues," Hetherington promises.

Never mind; better late than never, as people say. Nevertheless, all that was heard at the briefing gave little hope. This is why: The aim of the investigation, which will last about 1 year, is not to bring the Nazis to trial. Hetherington and Chalmers have been instructed only to establish whether the accusations are serious enough for them to recommend amendments to some sections in Britain's criminal law.

All these years, London has claimed that the Nazis living in Britain apparently do not fall under the competence of the courts because they were not British citizens at the time the crimes were committed. Local jurisdiction does not extend to those who have committed crimes abroad while not British citizens. It was also said that the question of these persons' extradition to the USSR cannot be resolved because Britain does not have the appropriate agreement with the Soviet Union.

I asked Hetherington: "Could one hope that the necessary amendments to the law will be introduced and the criminals will either face trial or be extradited?"

"You see," the lawyer said, spreading his hands, "the task of our investigation is just to make recommendations. It is for the government to make the decisions."

Voss-Led Delegation Attends UK Conference

LD101525 Moscow TASS in English 1207 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] London April 10 TASS—The Soviet parliamentary delegation arrived here on an official visit on the invitation of Bernard Weatherill, the speaker of the House of Commons of the British Parliament.

The delegation is led by Avgust Voss, chairman of the Soviet (council) of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet. On the delegation are Valentina Tereshkova, president of the Presidium of the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries, and Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. At the airport the delegation was met by Leonid Zamyatin, ambassador of the USSR to Britain.

Before the delegation begins its official visit, it will attend the World Conference of Parliamentary and Church Leaders on the problems of the survival of humanity, a major socio-political forum opening in Oxford Monday.

Metropolitan of Rostov Vladimir and Mufti Babakhanov, chairman of the Muslim Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, who represent the Soviet clergy, arrived to attend the same forum.

Turkish Minister's 'Anti-Soviet' Remarks Viewed

LD081336 Moscow TASS in English 1316 GMT 8 Apr 88

["TASS News Analyst on Anti-Soviet Pronouncement"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

The Turkish newspaper MILLIYET reports that Mustafa Kalemli, Turkish minister of the interior, has called for fighting against terrorism. The problem is undoubtedly an important one, but how does the Turkish minister interpret it?

While maintaining that terrorist acts in Turkey "are organized from the outside", he accused several countries, including the Soviet Union, of "export of terrorism". Stating further that the USSR sought to "get an outlet to the warm seas", he tried to frighten his fellow countrymen with a "threat" which ostensibly hung over Turkey.

When one reads about such pronouncements, a thought suggests itself that we are witnessing just another rehashing of old and long-exposed inventions. Really, both the absurd attempts at blaming the Soviet Union for terrorist acts that are committed in various countries of the world, and yarns about Moscow's desire to "get an outlet to the warm seas", which could be repeatedly heard over the radio and read in some organs of right-wing bourgeois press, burst like soap bubbles every time.

It is no secret which circles in the West inspired such kind of inventions in an attempt to heighten tension and to sow unfriendliness and hostility with regard to the Soviet Union. Can it be that some people in Turkey aspire for more than questionable 'laurels' of the compilers of such 'sensations'?

It is well known that the Soviet Union resolutely and consistently condemns in any form and manifestation of terrorism. This is undoubtedly known in Turkey as well.

The question arises then: What actually prompted the minister's assertions published by MILLIYET and from what 'source' were they taken, and what purposes do they serve? At any rate, they do not serve the purposes of developing and strengthening the steady, even, and good relations which have been established between Turkey and the Soviet Union.

Turkish Treatment of Leftist Leaders Protested

PM111145 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "To Prevent Repression"]

[Text] Members of the Commission for International Cooperation on Humanitarian Questions and Human Rights under the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation have expressed alarm caused by what is happening to H. Kutlu, general secretary of the Communist Party of Turkey Central Committee, and N. Sargin, general secretary of the Workers Party.

Our indignation is caused by the arrest of these patriots, the application of illegal means of influence against them, and the authoritarian ban on legal actions by Turkish citizens whose objectives are none other but democracy, peace, and the working people's interests, the statement by the commission's members says. This stance by the Turkish authorities is contrary to the pledges given by Turkey in line with the Helsinki Final Act. The Soviet public demands that the judicial repression which threatens H. Kutlu and N. Sargin with life imprisonment be ended and that they be set free and given an opportunity to take part in the country's political life.

The statement is signed by F. Burlatskiy, A. Adamovich, D. Granin, V. Kartashkin, and B. Krylov.

Comparison of Gromyko Meeting With Italians

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 10 April carries in its Second Edition on page 4 a TASS report on the meeting of A.A. Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, with a delegation of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament. The PRAVDA report, entitled "Italian Parliamentarians in Kremlin," has been compared with the TASS English version published in the 11 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pages 52-54, revealing the following variations:

Page 52, column one, line one reads in PRAVDA: A.A. Gromyko received in the Kremlin on 9 April a delegation of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Italian Parliament's Chamber of Deputies headed by Commission Chairman Flaminio Piccoli.

Together with the delegation at the talks was Sergio Romano, Italy's ambassador to the USSR.

At the beginning.... (omitting dateline, rewording first paragraph, omitting first sentence in second paragraph)

Column two, second paragraph, last line reads in PRAVDA: ...political course—perestroyka.

In this connection, A.A. Gromyko spoke of the profound processes under way in our country.

During the talks, stating the tasks.... (omitting passages from third paragraph, sentences two-six, through second paragraph, only sentence, column one, on page 53)

Page 53, column one, paragraph eight, line five reads in PRAVDA: ...with Italy. And if the partners have a reciprocal desire, the Soviet side will only welcome this.

We are doing.... (rewording)

Column two, paragraph five, line five reads in PRAVDA: ...is strengthening and will continue strengthening socialism. (rewording)

Paragraph six, line one reads in PRAVDA: M. Teodori raised the question of "human rights" in the Soviet Union, about which some press organs in the West continue to write. (correcting name, rewording)

Last paragraph, last line reads in PRAVDA: ...in this case?

G. Pajetta. Italy. In our country someone who commits a crime, including a crime against the state, may freely leave it. All this only shows once again the "efficiency" of the Italian Interior Ministry's work.

Speaking on problems.... (adding paragraph)

Page 54, column one, paragraph six, line six reads in PRAVDA: ...of Soviet-Italian relations.

Participating in the talks were P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and V.V. Zagladin, secretary of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union.

On the same day, the delegation laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall. (adding paragraphs)

Exchange With Finland's Holkeri on Amity Treaty

PM121419 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "On Anniversary"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers sent Finnish Prime Minister H. Holkeri a telegram in which it conveyed to him and the Finnish Government warm greetings and best wishes on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Soviet-Finnish Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the two countries.

"The 1948 treaty, which initiated a qualitatively new period in Soviet-Finnish relations," the telegram said, "invariably serves as a reliable guide on the path to strengthening trust, friendship, and good-neighborliness between our states and peoples. For the years that our treaty has been in operation, a broad partnership has been cultivated on its basis in essentially all spheres of our bilateral cooperation, which is a significant contribution to increasing security and stability both in northern Europe and our continent as a whole.

"We are convinced that the vigorous introduction of new forms of cooperation in diverse spheres will enable us to raise our collaboration to qualitatively new levels and to significantly increase its effectiveness in resolving the tasks now facing our countries and peoples."

In his telegram H. Holkeri, on behalf of the Finnish Government and on his own behalf, passed on warmest congratulations to the USSR Council of Ministers in connection with the 40th anniversary since the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance was concluded between Finland and the Soviet Union.

"The last 4 decades in the history of relations between our countries," the telegram said, "have been a time of security and increasing trust and cooperation, which is growing and taking on new forms. The trusting good-neighborly relations that now exist between our countries and peoples, as well as the fruitful results in practical cooperation, testify convincingly that the parties made the correct choice by concluding a treaty which has opened up opportunities for constantly developing mutual relations.

"Now that we are entering the treaty's 5th decade, we are convinced that the principles of trust, friendship, and good-neighborliness established in Finnish-Soviet relations will continue to determine our contacts and cooperation. We are also convinced that, in a vigorous quest for the new, we will be able to resolve on this basis the tasks set by the times both in the economy and also in other areas of cooperation."

Comparison of Zaykov Speech at Helsinki Dinner

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian on 8 April carries in its Morning Edition on page 5 a TASS report on the Helsinki speech by L.N. Zaykov, member of th CPSU Central Committee, marking the 40th anniversary of the 1948 Soviet-Finnish Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance. The IZVESTIYA report, entitled "USSR-Finland: Following a Course of Cooperation," has been compared with the Moscow PRAVDA version published in the 8 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pages 32-35, revealing the following variations:

Page 33, column one, paragraph four, penultimate line reads in IZVESTIYA: ...country and Soviet people.

I would like to assure you that the Soviet Union attaches paramount importance to this significant event and regards it as a great celebration of Soviet-Finnish friendship. I can say without any exaggeration that our friendship is part of the national property of the Soviet and Finnish peoples.

I have great.... (adding paragraph)

Paragraph five, last line reads in IZVESTIYA: ...Central Committee.

The good relations.... (omitting two paragraphs)

Column two, paragraph three reads in IZVESTIYA: ..."common European home."

In 2 weeks' time.... (omitting last sentence in paragraph three and following paragraph)

Paragraph five, last line reads in IZVESTIYA: ...Independence of Finland.

Two outstanding sons.... (omitting paragraph)

Paragraph seven, last line reads in IZVESTIYA: ...their noble work.

Today it is our common duty to carefully cultivate and protect the fruitful garden of Soviet-Finnish friendship. In this connection, I would particularly like to note the noble activity of the "Finland-Soviet Union" Society.

Great significance for.... (adding paragraph)

Paragraph nine, line five reads in IZVESTIYA: ...new political thinking.

We are realists.... (omitting last sentence of paragraph nine and first three paragraphs in column one, page 34)

Page 34, column one, paragraph eight, line two reads in IZVESTIYA: ...activeness in the north.

Our program of.... (omitting second sentence of paragraph eight)

Column two, paragraph one, line four reads in IZVESTIYA: ...Finland's initiative.

I must say.... (omitting passage in paragraph one)

Paragraph two, last line reads in IZVESTIYA: ...spoken of repeatedly.

It should be.... (omitting two paragraphs)

Paragraph five, last line reads in IZVESTIYA: ...our economic relations, which must respond flexibly and painlessly to changes in the market situation.

We have a whole package of specific proposals for our Finnish partners. In particular, the Soviet side invites them to take part in the development of the Kola Peninsula's mineral resources and in the creation of equipment for working oil and gas sources on the shelf of the northern seas.

Our party's aim.... (adding phrase in paragraph five, adding paragraph)

Paragraph nine, line four reads in IZVESTIYA: ...let us follow its noble principles.... (rewording)

Latin America & Caribbean

Joint Statement Issued on Costa Ricans' Visit

PM111415 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Joint Announcement on Visit to USSR by Delegation From Costa Rican Legislative Assembly"]

[Text] A delegation from the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly headed by J. L. Valenciano Chavez, deputy president of the assembly, paid an official visit to the Soviet Union from 29 March to 6 April 1988 at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The delegation was received by P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. There were meetings and conversations with A.E. Voss, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, and members of the chambers' standing commissions.

The Costa Rican parliamentarians laid wreaths at the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall. In addition to Moscow they visited the Belorussian SSR and Leningrad where they were acquainted with the activity of local organs of state power and visited industrial and agricultural enterprises.

During meetings and conversations held in a friendly atmosphere, the Costa Rican deputies were given a detailed report on the progress of restructuring in the USSR and on the work aimed at accelerating socioeconomic development and the democratization of all spheres of Soviet society's life.

There was an exchange of information on the activity of the two countries' parliaments during which the joint conviction was expressed that the safeguarding of peace and international security are the most urgent vital need of our time. The sides noted that the parliaments of all countries now face the most important task of increasing their contribution to the cause of saving human civilization from the threat of nuclear destruction. In this connection they stressed the paramount need to further boost their combined efforts to ensure lasting peace on earth and the steady trend toward the improvement of the international situation.

The Soviet deputies explained the USSR's foreign policy program, which envisages the complete and general elimination of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction before the end of this century and the creation of an all-embracing system of international security.

For their part, the Costa Rican delegation members noted that the major event of world politics was the Soviet-U.S. summit in Washington during which the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles was signed as the first important step toward nuclear disarmament. They also stressed the importance of reaching an accord on the reduction of USSR and U.S. strategic offensive armaments under conditions of the observance of the ABM Treaty.

The USSR parliamentarians noted with satisfaction the growing role of the Latin American countries in the world and their contribution to the preservation and consolidation of international security and stability and the curbing of the arms race. The two sides supported the development of close cooperation among Latin American states.

The two countries' representatives expressed grave concern at the persistence of conflict situations in various parts of the world. They confirmed their mutual conviction that it is vitally necessary to settle them as quickly as possible by means of talks based on the respect of sovereignty, national independence, and the recognition of the peoples' right to independently choose their path of development.

The Soviet and Costa Rican parliamentarians declared their resolute support for the process of a peaceful political settlement in Central America based on the Guatemala accords without external interference. They also opposed pressure on the sovereign states of Central America and condemned the actions of those forces whose aim is to prolong and aggravate conflicts.

It was stressed that it is necessary to establish a new international economic order ensuring equitable nondiscriminatory trade and economic ties between countries and guaranteeing the economic security of states. In this connection the two countries' parliamentarians advocated disarmament as a step essential to the attainment of peace and development, which will make it possible to channel extra resources into the solution of the many acute social and economic problems faced by developing countries.

The deputies from the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly stressed the usefulness and importance of stepping up Soviet-Costa Rican ties, particularly in the sphere of regular parliamentary exchange, and confirmed their readiness to promote the consolidation of equitable and mutually beneficial relations between the Soviet Union and Costa Rica in the interests of both countries' peoples and of international peace and cooperation.

Chilean Communists on Plebiscite Prerequisites

PY111711 Moscow in Spanish to Chile 0330 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] At a press conference yesterday, the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] disclosed four conditions that must be met for it to participate in the plebiscite; namely, equal rights for all political parties, an end to exile, the right to vote for Chileans residing abroad, and the release of former Foreign Minister Clodomiro Almeyda and all political prisoners. During the same press conference, PCCh spokesmen Julieta Campuzano, Mireya Baltra, Gonzalo Rovira, and Alejandro Yanez said that to these four conditions must be added the demands made by the Episcopal Conference—that is, lifting all states of exception; allowing equal access to communications media, especially to television; and guaranteeing controlled voting. These spokesmen also proposed to the Christian Democratic Party, which refuses to enter any sort of alliance or understanding with the PCCh, that all the parties of the left sit down together for democratic negotiations.

Alejandro Yanez denounced the climate of repression, the worsening standard of living, the government's propagandistic manipulation, and the fraud now in the making. Responding to a question, the PCCh spokesman said that the existence of the guarantees demanded by the people, as part of their struggle against the regime, would force the PCCh to modify its position regarding the plebiscite. They added that now is the time to work for unity and agreement within the opposition, and to demand guarantees. They voiced support for the new petition made public by the National Workers Command.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister on Guatemala Accord

LD111346 Moscow TASS in English 1054 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Managua April 11 TASS—Nicaragua's Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto reaffirmed the policy of the Nicaraguan Government of strict observance of the Guatemala agreement on a peaceful settlement of the situation in Central America. At present Nicaragua is the sole state in the region, which has started, in conformity with that agreement, the holding of direct talks on ceasefire with armed groups, Miguel d'Escoto said.

Speaking on the results of the latest meeting of the foreign ministers of the five countries of the region in Guatemala, the Nicaragua minister evaluated as an important step the decision reached at it on the composition of the international commission on the verification of fulfilment of the Guatemala agreement. He stressed that the foreign ministers of Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and El Salvador, demanded that the governments of the Central American countries and the states outside the region end any aid to the irregular armed units as an indispensable condition for lasting peace in Central America.

Political & Social

Continuing Reaction to Central Press 'War'

'Mental Confusion'

PM111457 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Nikolay Bodnaruk "Publicist's Remarks": "Occurrence and Phenomenon"]

[Text] Sometimes you need a cause to produce an effect. The existence of adversaries of restructuring has been known for a long time. Ever since it began. Even though they are not to be seen at the rostrum. Its champions are right before us—each one of them identifiable, with his own voice and his own arguments. As for adversaries—there are no such people. There is a loud chorus of approval. Everybody assures the public and the higher-ranking comrades from the rostrum of his devotion to the ideas of restructuring. It is not as if we have not been used to unanimity for a long time—it is all we have ever known. We know its price.

The difference is that in the past the impostors, while swearing loyalty, looked over their shoulders at their superiors. Now they look at the public. After all, you've got to be insane to bluntly tell the people today: I am against changes, I want things to remain as they've always been.

The difference is that in the past the public kept silent, while now, having realized the strength of democracy, it fearlessly uncovers the truth and increasingly loudly demands an answer to such questions as: If everybody is in favor of restructuring, who is applying the brakes? Who is stifling initiative, democracy, and glasnost? Who is it that, in each specific instance, forcibly sets the local standards of restructuring at rayon, oblast, or republic level? Who? Why? For what purpose?

The difference, finally, is that restructuring has changed not only the champions but also the adversaries of restructuring. In the past they used to say one thing while doing something else. Today, losing their positions and fearing the irreversibility of changes, they are increasingly often and increasingly frankly testing the endurance of restructuring, they are increasingly boldly applying the brakes, trying accurately to sense: Will they [the supporters of restructuring] fight back or will they timidly allow it to be halted, and subsequently even reversed?

An article in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, published under the rubric "Letter to the Editorial Office" and being essentially a manifesto of the antirestructuring forces, was the occurrence which not only brought to light the stance of the impostors of restructuring but also revealed their mental confusion, their ideological spinelessness, their habit of living by edicts and sailing with the wind. The danger, it became clear, lies not only and not so much with the enemies of restructuring but with those who, right to this day, are expressing approval and support while waiting to see how it all will end.

No sooner had this article appeared, couched in the authoritarian tone that is so familiar to us, than—as if by order—it produced a response from convinced persons sharing the views of the author of this "manifesto" and from people who take no particular stand: It was hastily reprinted by some major and minor newspapers. In some places on orders from the local bosses. In other places on newspapers' own initiative, prompted by a desire not to miss out or a desire to please. Photocopies started circulating in places, some raykoms started organizing large-scale discussions of the article at meetings and faculty sessions which were to express support for the ideas contained in the article, ideas which essentially are in direct contradiction with the stipulations of the 27th party congress and the speech by the CPSU Central Committee general secretary at the quite recent Central Committee February Plenum.

Political assessments of the event were provided by the article "Principles of Restructuring: Revolutionary Nature of Thinking and Acting," published by PRAVDA 5 April. It needs no comment. The party's stance is unwavering: There is no turning back, restructuring is irreversible!

Questions remain, however, which can only worry everyone who is concerned with the country's future and our party's authority. What is the state of public awareness if the slightest test could have produced such confusion of mind and ineffectiveness of action? What are the sources of such uncritical acceptance of a clearly dogmatic and biased article? What is the actual result of the efforts by party, soviet, and Komsomol organs, workers of the political instruction network, social scientists, and the mass media if—as we can see—the main field of their activity, the political awareness of the masses, remains unplowed?

And finally, almost the main question: For how long will we rest satisfied with empty words about restructuring, without rebuffing those who openly resist it, as well as those who call for initiative while believing only in edicts, and those who are totally indifferent where they are going as long as they remain in the saddle.

The impostors are not as harmless as they may appear.

Readers on PRAVDA Article

*PM111711 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian
12 Apr 88 First Edition p 2*

[Roundup of readers' letters under the rubric "From the Mailbag of the Last Few Days"—first paragraph is boxed introduction]

[Text] On 6 April our newspaper reprinted from PRAVDA the article "Principles of Restructuring: Revolutionary Nature of Thinking and Acting," sharing its arguments and conclusions and the essence of its criticism. The editorial office is receiving responses. We publish a few of them.

Stereotypes of the Past [subhead]

I feel special affinity and understanding for the words in the article "Principles of Restructuring: Revolutionary Nature of Thinking and Acting," published by PRAVDA 5 April, to the effect that we have become different in the last 3 years. We have raised our heads and straightened ourselves up, we are honestly facing up to facts and openly talking aloud on all pressing issues, we are seeking methods to solve the problems which have built up over the decades. Without a decisive turnabout in the direction of democratization it would have been impossible to achieve the real changes that are already noticeable in the resolution of a number of social and economic tasks. Correctly said!

N. Andreyeva's letter neither awakens people's activeness nor unfetters the masses, as the party urges. She affirms the stereotypes of the past—not to allow any taking of liberties in thought, to be obedient, to praise the unpraisable.... Our worst internal enemy retarding restructuring lies in our actions, in ourselves.

First of all let me mention bureaucratism. The intelligentsia is called upon to help the common struggle waged by the party and the people against this phenomenon, to profoundly, comprehensively, convincingly, and intelligibly expose the image of the present-day bureaucrat and of bureaucratism as a phenomenon retarding restructuring. The bureaucrat has many faces, he lives both within those who manage and organize and those who execute decisions.

Surely, the paramount duty of theoretical forces, the artistic intelligentsia, and the press is rather to answer the question: Why is it that we have been struggling against him for 70 years and he is still with us, not only as an idea but also as a great social evil? Our impression of him was shaped on dogmatic lines, we have no experience of struggling against him in conditions of democracy.

I know there are theoretical journals, but I am writing about this to a newspaper. Life is currently moving faster than the theoretical interpretation of changes, and a newspaper can illuminate restructuring faster than other sources.

The stereotypes of the past are evidently displaying no readiness to voluntarily exit the stage, they are trying to return and re-establish themselves. Not just in spiritual life alone. There are also other phenomena where the establishment of the new thinking and activity is being stubbornly obstructed by stereotypes of past views of what is actual, real, and essential. Everywhere the struggle ahead must be waged with human consideration, in a party-comradely spirit, with civic courage, sincerity, and benevolence. These topics are reflected in the press. Maybe readers could be asked to express their views by raising, for example, a topic like "The Principle of Democratic Centralism in Its Dynamics in the Conditions of Restructuring." There will be many readers who will work on this topic, who will express themselves, and will offer sketches and their ideas. Theoreticians will also give it thought.

Candidate of Historical Sciences A. Prazdnikov, Saratov

Rose-Colored Glasses No Longer in Fashion [subhead]

The last thing we want is to waive principles. Especially our Marxist-Leninist principles which were trampled into the dirt by Stalin's personality cult, which assured him a sharply negative attitude on the part of every honest Soviet person.

Yes, nowadays it is not easy for young people to determine which values are genuine and which are false. But the blame for this lies primarily with the notorious stagnation years, when the slightest deviation from commonly accepted opinions was considered almost anti-Soviet. There was simply no reason why young people should learn to think, since all around them "suggested" that they should live "like everybody else." Now that rose-colored glasses are out of fashion, it is of course young people, as the most sensitive and vulnerable section of society, who find the healing process most painful. It is not in vain that restructuring is likened to revolution; it has affected all strata of our life, bringing to the surface much that creates a feeling of disgust and repugnance. But has there been a single revolution without this? Is purification itself possible without truth, without prefixing everything with "half?" [sentence as published] Life must ultimately be accepted in all its complexity, which in no way contradicts our class positions. I would like to quote an excerpt from V.I. Lenin's speech at the closing of the 11th Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) Congress: "No force in the world, no matter how much evil, calamity, or suffering it may bring upon millions and hundreds of millions of people, can take back the main gains of our revolution because they are no longer only 'ours' but world historical gains."

V. Ksenofontov, Kholmsk, Sakhalin Oblast

Working for Restructuring [subhead]

I read Nina Andreyeva's article "I Cannot Waive My Principles" in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 13 March, and I felt sad. It is sad that N. Andreyeva is as biased as those she criticizes. I therefore agree with the article published by PRAVDA and reprinted by your newspaper.

This article helped to produce an objective assessment of the situation and drew attention to the genuine party approach toward the questions under discussion.

I regret the excesses in criticism of the past, but I cannot agree with Nina Andreyeva that this criticism is supposedly unnecessary for the healing of our society. The present-day excesses often appear precisely because people in the past committed excesses in the opposite direction, diligently glossing over reality.

I am with the author in opposing the groundless denigration of those who were the trailblazers of socialism. But the author must not forget that this denigration is nothing new. It was Stalin who was the organizer and inspirer of such denigrationg....

Andreyeva's assertion that attacks against socialism allegedly have a social subsoil and are instigated by "offspring" of the exploiting classes stinks to high heaven! This is essentially a return to the Stalinist tenet: As communism draws nearer, the class struggle is inevitably exacerbated. We don't need this exacerbation—we have had enough of it. We have had our fill of the fact that the ideological struggle is continuing and that it is directed from abroad. It would be the greatest manifestation of naivete to imagine that international imperialism would ever give up trying to put wrenches in our works, that it would start promoting our social progress. No, this is not going to happen. Ideological, psychological, military, and other provocations will continue. The situation makes it incumbent to improve organizational and ideological work. But the requisite improvement has not happened yet. For example, radio jamming has been stopped and our compatriots are now showered by a stream of lies and half-truths from abroad. This is a new situation, but little has changed in ideological work.

It is, after all, clear that the administrative system is being attacked today for the sake of ensuring that the principle of socialism "From each according to his ability, to each according to his labor" becomes reality, that social consumption funds correspond with the actual needs of the masses, that the ruble has full purchasing power, that social justice triumphs, and that human dignity is not trampled by either administrative or any other type of boorishness. To forget the existence of this main stream of criticism means to fully distort the essence of the current situation. If N. Andreyeva is to be believed, it transpires that there is absolutely no need for any attacks on the deformities in our life.

In my view, there is no question whether the party's leading role in restructuring ought to be recognized or not. It is our party that is leading restructuring, and almost the entire people actively support the party line in both words and deeds.

I don't think that N. Andreyeva correctly reflects the situation when she argues that "today the question of the role and place of socialist ideology has acquired a highly acute form." This question has always been acute and it was more acute at the time of stagnation than now, in the time of restructuring. The ice has moved! The glaring contradiction between words and deeds is receding into the past. Socialism is acquiring its natural forms. Socialist ideology is cleansing itself of obsolete dogmas. Socialism pluralism of opinion is growing and strengthening, a phenomenon so unusual for those brought up in the spirit of the administrative system that they are beginning to see monsters in the natural and normal process of the restoration of Leninist norms of life.

It is necessary to work for restructuring, comrade social scientists. We expect from you good-quality textbooks on history, philosophy, political economy, and other social sciences. Books which reflect the subject of study from various aspects and help us to learn from the mistakes of the past and avoid their repetition. Works on world-outlook themes should have been written a long time ago in a fashion making it possible for people to learn independent thinking and acquire beliefs, and not just a knowledge of sayings from the classics. Give us such books, arm us with whatever is necessary for success.

A. Bredov, CPSU member since 1944, Moscow.

'Top Priority' on Articles

["Top Priority" program, presented by Vladimir Pozner with Drs Radomir Bogdanov and Sergey Plekhanov of the United States and Canada Institute]
LD092327 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpts] [Pozner] How do you do, ladies and gentlemen. This is Vladimir Pozner presenting "Top Priority." With me on the panel today as usual Dr Radomir Bogdanov and Dr Sergey Plekhanov.

We usually discuss international affairs, Soviet-American relations in our show, but today the issue of "Top Priority" is indeed something of tremendous importance although it is not strictly international. It applies to the Soviet Union, but in many ways it does also apply, as I think we will see, to international relations.

What I have in mind is two article that appeared in the Soviet press, one on 13 March in a daily called SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA which is SOVIET RUSSIA, and the other on 5 April in PRAVDA. The two articles, I would say, are diametrically opposed in the way they treat the issue of perestroyka and glasnost. In fact the PRAVDA article says that the one that was published previously is a kind of manifesto of anti-perestroyka. Clearly there are two views. [passage omitted]

I'd like to ask you: What does the appearance of these two diametrically opposed views signify? Is there a division of opinion in the Soviet Union from top to bottom? Are we looking at two almost diametrically opposed views on what perestroyka should be? What is your opinion, Dr Bogdanov?

[Bogdanov] Vladimir, Vladimir, I would like to comment a little bit on what you have already said.

1. I feel that there is a very close link between foreign policy and these two articles. And I mean by that we have been discussing that many times already that there is, if you like, a geometrical proportion between changes within the Soviet Union and the changes in the foreign policy. So if you look from that angle at those two articles, you will feel very strongly that it impacts very much on our international behavior.

2. The fact that two very diametrical, opposite views have appeared in the Soviet press is, let me put it like that, it's a feast of democracy. It's a socialist pluralism. It's a very, by itself, it's a very great event which signals that you have tremendous changes in the Soviet society, and you have tremendous openness in the Soviet society. But at the same time it means that if you have a right to express your views, I should have a right to oppose it, and to discuss with you in a political way, not in an oppressive way. And if I have a diametrically opposed view I should, and I have the right to publish this view, to make it public.

Now, your question is: Does it mean that there is a division in the Soviet society? I would not be afraid to say, yes, there is a division, and it's a very clear division between people, let (?them) call conservatives, anti-perestroyka people, and there is a people, I hate the word progressive, but I will put it like that, pro-perestroyka. My point is this: It's very natural development. And first of all it means that perestroyka is getting its momentum. And all opposing forces, all hostile forces, if you like, to perestroyka, they feel it very much that it's becoming dangerous for their opposition, for their inertia. That's why you have this what you call it quite rightly, and I agree with you—this very rare occasion when I agree with you [laughs]—it's a real manifesto. And now you have another manifesto. I would call it another manifesto which was published in PRAVDA.

[Plekhanov] [Passage omitted in which Plekhanov outlines SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA article] I would say that they are a minority, but some prejudices, some points in the [SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA] article did strike a chord with a lot of people.

[Pozner] Such as?

[Plekhanov] For instance there is this idea that, well you know, it was not Stalin personally but people around him, and that the question is more serious then just the personality of Stalin, which is a valid point.

[Pozner] Isn't that a little bit like in the prerevolutionary times when the poor peasant would say, well it's not the tsar's fault, the tsar's OK, but it's all the corrupt people around the tsar. Can you see the parallel they're saying, well, Stalin was OK, it was the people around him? [passage omitted]

[Plekhanov] But again, in the article, that question was addressed very demogogically, and so the people who found some useful points in the article are politically not very astute, not very developed. My own experience in talking with such people shows that when you discuss the question realistically, on the merits, when you cut though the demagogy and the prejudice, you find that those people begin to reject the main points of the article. So my opinion is that it does not have the support of most people. [Bogdanov] [Passage omitted] I am quite sure; I agree in that with Sergey though it's based on rather emotional assessment than objective, (?scientific objective), because what, our answer to our listeners over there based on our personal experience with some people. [sentence as heard] Maybe we are wrong in that since we are pro-perestroyka people we rather prefer to meet our own breed. And we meet very rarely people against it. That's why, when Sergey said that if you have a good argument, that was the essence of what you have said, if you have a good argument you can convince them. That's the point where I disagree with Sergey because I have a different experience. Even if you have a good argument, to your own judgment it's a good, it is not good argument for them. They're so blind, you know, and they're so closed to the argument.

[Pozner] Rather deaf, perhaps.

[Bogdanov] Yeah, yeah exactly, close-minded, and that worries me very much. They don't listen to sense, you know. [passage omitted]

[Pozner] Would you not agree that one of the points made in that [PRAVDA] article was that if we do not exorcise our past, if we do not face our past squarely, honestly, then it is going to be very difficult to move ahead?

[Bogdanov] Vladimir, I look at that differently. You put very interesting question, but let me play it to you back. Suppose that article in PRAVDA didn't appear, and you have only one article which appeared in SOVIET RUSSIA, that is my question to you, what you would think? And that's what I mean to say, that the fact itself that PRAVDA reacted to that in such a way as saying this is manifesto of anti-perestroyka, this is very bad, this is very dangerous, that is the (?set) of argument, that's the most important thing for me, means that within the party you have a majority of views prevailing over anti-perestroyka views, because mind you, SOVIET RUSSIA is another organ of the party, it's not your paper, Sergey's, or Memory's paper or something, it's a party paper, another party paper.

[Pozner] It's not a nationwide paper.

[Bogdanov] It's not a, but if you look at the, you know [words indistinct]. It's a national newspaper. So for me, for me, Sergey, the most important in this, PRAVDA answered.

[Pozner] Responded.

[Bogdanov] Responded, I'm sorry, and engaged SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in a political battle. That's my answer.

[Pozner] In June we will be having a very important event here in the Soviet Union, the 19th party conference which, of course, will shed a lot of light on the future of perestroyka. Very briefly, we only have a half a minute left, do you look forward to this with optimism, cautious optimism? Are you, as usual, pessimistic, Dr Bogdanov? Let me have your views. First, Dr Plekhanov, we have 20 seconds.

[Plekhanov] Cautious optimism.

[Pozner] You are a cautious optimist. Dr Bogdanov?

[Bogdanov] After that, after that article, with reasonable optimism.

[Pozner] Reasonable optimism?

[Bogdanov] Yeah.

[Pozner] Well that's nice. I mean, we've got a consensus here because I'm optimistic too. And on that note I invite all of you to come back a week from today at the same time and join us for "Top Priority."

Uzbek Plenum Makes Personnel Changes

LD120909 Tashkent Domestic Service in Russian
1210 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The 10th Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee Plenum was held today. A report on the tasks of the republic's party organization in implementing the reform of secondary and higher education and the ideological provision of restructuring in light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee February 1988 Plenum was delivered by Comrade Nishanov, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee. [passage omitted] The plenum adopted the appropriate decision on the matter discussed.

The Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee plenum examined organizational matters. Comrade Khabibullayev, chairman of the Uzbkek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, was elected member of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, Bureau. Comrade Khodzhayeva was confirmed as chief of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee Culture Department. The plenum expelled Turapov, member of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, from the CPSU for violating the norms of party life, abuse of his office, and bribery. Comrades Davydov and (Gvozdev), senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the plenum's work. With that the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee plenum completed its work.

Discusses Errors, Education

LD111729 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1400 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Serious errors in the methods of teaching and bringing up the rising generation were discussed at a plenum of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee that took place today in Tashkent. These errors have become a brake on the republic's social and economic development. Comrade Nishanov, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the plenum. The stagnation phenomena of the past have had a detrimental effect on the situation with schools and their material base. Only 40 percent of the republic's schools are accomodated in standard buildings, and even a third shift has been introduced for 150,000 children. Not a single higher education establishment or vocational training school in Uzbekistan has premises for studying and laboratory work which would even remotely correspond to set standards. The fact that only one in three children in the republic—and one in four in rural areas—has the opportunity to go to kindergarten is a direct reproach to party, soviet, and economic leaders. It was noted at the plenum that reform of the whole system of teaching and bringing-up is one of the most important sectors of restructuring.

Uzbek Supreme Soviet Adopts Personnel Changes

LD091015 Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek
0500 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The 8th session of the 11th convocation of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet opened in Tashkent today. At 1000 the first meeting of the Supreme Soviet began its work. [passage omitted]

The Supreme Soviet adopted a decision on relieving Comrade Nishanov of his duty as chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in connection with his election as first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee. The floor was given to Comrade Nishanov, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee. In accordance with instruction of the Council of Elders and the party group, he proposed electing deputy Khabibullayev, who is president of the Uzbek SSR Academy of sciences, to the post of chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. This proposal was unanimously adopted.

After this, the floor was given to Comrade Khabibullayev. He expressed his gratitude for having been elected chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The Supreme Soviet relieved Comrade Khabibullayev of his duty as chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet.

In accordance with instruction of the Council of Elders and the party group, Deputy Gulamov was elected chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the republic.

Deputy Anishchev, second secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee took the floor, and in accordance with the instruction of the Council of Elders and the party group, proposed relieving deputy Usmankhodzhayev of membership of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The proposal was unanimously adopted.

Deputy Nishanov, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee was elected member of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Supreme Soviet examined the second question on the agenda. Deputy Kadyrov, chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers, read a report [words indistinct]. The session continues its work.

Khabibullayev Profiled

LD091622 Tashkent Domestic Service in Russian 1210 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] We broadcast the biography of Pulat Khabibullayev, chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Pulat Khabibullayev was born in 1936 in the town of Andizhan. He is an Uzbek. He has been a member of the CPSU Since 1965.

In 1960 he graduated from the Lenin Central Asian State University. He is a physicist, a doctor of physics and mathematics, a professor, a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and an academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR. After graduating from university he went on to do research, and he studied at the [words indistinct] teacher training college. Later he worked as teacher, senior lecturer, head of a department of the Nizami Tashkent State Teacher Training College and rector of the Andizhan Institute of Cottongrowing.

In the period 1975-78 he was engaged in party work as head of the department of science and educational institutions of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee.

In 1978 he was appointed director of the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR.

He is a member of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee, deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet. He has been awarded two Red Labor Banner orders and a Badge of Honor order. He is USSR Yeruni state prize winner.

Session Continues

LD111127 Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek 0115 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The 8th session of the Uzbekistan SSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th convocation continued its work in Tashkent yesterday. Deputies discussed the third question on the agenda of the session. Deputy [name indistinct], chairman of the Standing Commission for the Preparation of Draft Laws under the Supreme Soviet of the republic, read a report on the Uzbekistan SSR draft law on (?comprehensively) discussing the important questions concerning the state life of the Uzbekistan SSR. Deputies discussed the report and approved the Uzbekistan SSR law on the important question concerning the Uzbekistan SSR state life.

Deputies then discussed the fourth question on the agenda of the session. Deputy Khalmukhammedov, secretary of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan Central Committee, read a report on setting up the commission of the Uzbekistan SSR Supreme Soviet for questions of internationality relations and internationalist education. The session adopted a decision on setting up the commission for the questions of internationality relations and internationalist education under the Uzbekistan SSR Supreme Soviet.

The session introduced some changes into the composition of the standing commissions of the Uzbekistan SSR Supreme Soviet.

The Supreme Soviet heard the information of the Uzbekistan SSR Council of Ministers (?on) the decision adopted according to proposals and observations of deputies and citizens during the discussion on the republican housing draft program of Deputy Iskandarov, deputy chairman of the Uzbekistan SSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the republic's Gosplan, envisaged for the year 2000. The session adopted a decison on this question. Comrades Kurbanov, first deputy chairman of the Uzbekistan SSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, and Iskandarov, chairman of the republic's Gosplan, answered the questions of deputies (?Khaltayeva), [name indistinct], and Saidov. The session adopted a decision on questions of deputies.

Deputy Bekkulbekova, secretary of the Presidium of the Uzbekistan SSR Supreme Soviet read a report on the confirmation of Presidium decrees. The session adopted a law and decision on confirmation of the decrees of the Uzbekistan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. With this the Eighth Session of the Uzbekistan SSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th Convocation concluded its work.

Tatars Reportedly Demonstrate Near Tashkent

AU102019 Paris AFP in English 2000 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, April 10 (AFP)—More than 100 Crimean Tatars demonstrated Sunday near Tashkent, capital of the Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan, and half a dozen were arrested, dissident sources said.

The protesters in the town of Kibrai, were demanding the right to return to their Black Sea homeland, from which they were deported en masse by Stalin at the end of World War II, Server Tuvarchi, one of their spokesmen said. He said there were "more than 100" demonstrators, who were dispersed after about 20 minutes by police and driven out of the town. About a half-dozen demonstrators were arrested but later released.

About 100 people staged a fresh protest later in the afternoon, without being interfered with by police, Mr Tuvarchi said.

Republic Supreme Soviets Discuss Management

LD091735 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] General plans for the management of the national economy are being discussed at sessions of republican supreme soviets. It is probably hardly necessary to say that the multitier management system, with its inertia and awkwardness, its swollen machinery of management and its frequent duplication, is hopelessly outdated. The organizational structures have to be brought into line with the economic tasks and the rights of the local soviets. The new general plan will allow precisely this. For instance, by amalgamating a number of ministries and administrations in Kazakhstan, cutting their staffing levels by an average of 50 percent, and by dissolving 14 republican management bodies, almost 7,000 people will be released from work in Alma-Ata alone. The management machinery is likewise being significantly reduced in Moldavia and Lithuania. Supreme Soviet sessions have been held in Alma-Ata, Kishinev, and Vilnius.

The same matter is to be studied by a session of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet, which began today. Comrade Khabibullayev, president of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, has been elected chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Belorussia, Turkmenistan

LD081124 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Sessions of the Supreme Soviets of Belorussia and Turkmenistan took place today. Ways of improving the management of the national economies of these republics were discussed. The rapporteurs were the chairmen of the Councils of Ministers of Belorussia, Comrade Kovalev, and of Turkmenistan, Comrade Khodzhamuradov. The session in Ashkhabad was addressed by Comrade Niyazov, first secretary of the republic's Communist Party Central Committee.

Kolbin Delivers Report to Kazakh Party Aktiv

LD081122 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] A fundamental improvement in ideological work will come about only if all party bodies, without exception, from top to bottom, occupy themselves each day with questions of communist education and the ideological tempering of cadres. This thought became the leitmotiv of the meeting of the Kazakhstan party aktiv which took place in Alma-Ata today.

A report on the results of the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum and the tasks of the republican party organizations in providing ideological back-up for the new stage of restructuring was delivered by Comrade Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party.

Further Reportage From Armenia, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan Leaders on Tour

PM081847 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 22 Mar 88 p 1

[AZERINFORM report: "Demonstrating Restraint and Calmness, Strengthening Friendship Among Soviet Peoples"]

[Text] On 19-20 March Comrades K.M. Bagirov, O.A. Bagirov, M.M. Zaytsev, S. Ch. Kasumova, V.N. Konovalov, M.S. Mamedov, R.E. Mekhtiyev, F.E. Musayev, T.Kh. Orudzhev, A.T. Rasi-Zade, L.Kh. Rasulova, G.N. Seidov, Z.M. Yusif-Zade, S.N. Alekperov, N.A. Mamedov, N.E. Mustafayev; G.P. Kharchenko, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee Department, and other senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee; G.A. Pogosyan and B.A. Malkov, secretaries of Nagorno-Karabakh party obkom; and leaders of Azerbaijan SSR party, soviet, and economic organs met with labor collectives in Baku, Kirovobad, Nakhichevan, Stepanakert, Sumgait, and Ali-Bayramly, Yevlakhskiy, Salyanskiy, Imishlinskiy, Zangelanskiy, Apsheronskiy, Khachmasskiy, and Divichinskiy Rayons, the Mardakertskiy, Gadrutskiy, and Martuninskiy Rayons of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, and others. They displayed an interest in how party organizations are implementing in practice the tasks put forward in the Appeal by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to normalize the situation in the republic, ensure the rhythmic work of the national economic complex, and improve the working people's ideological-political and international education.

Frank, concerned conversations took place on how restructuring is progressing locally, on key problems of and the prospects for accelerating socioeconomic and cultural development. Exhaustive answers were given to the numerous questions that are worrying people, as were explanations of the essence of the party's Leninist nationality policy at the contemporary stage.

Particular attention was paid to the need to eliminate the laggardness allowed in production, to strictly observe contractual commitments, and to step up the pace of work in the fields and farmsteads, and to other vital questions on which depend the successful fulfillment of the plans and pledges of the 3d year of the 5-year plan and the practical results of restructuring.

The working people of the cities and villages voiced their ardent approval of M.S. Gorbachev's Appeal, and their decisive support for the practical steps and measures to stabilize the situation in the republic, Nagorno-Karabakh and Sumgait included. They stated their unanimous desire to continue to strengthen the friendship between the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples in every possible way and to do everything to ensure that nothing can shake our priceless gain—the unity and cohesion of peoples of different nations and nationalities.

There was frank talking about the difficulties bequeathed to us by the past in the development of interethnic relations. The questions which have accumulated must be examined soberly, calmly, and in a businesslike manner, and the correct ways must be found to resolve them in the interests of the working people of all nationalities living in the republic and of all Soviet society. A rebuff must be dealt to the rumors and all manner of conjectures and provocative talk which stir people up for no good reason and arouse unhealthy passions. Reason and restraint need to be shown in everything; precipitate actions and breaches of discipline and public order must not be committed.

The working people voiced specific proposals and critical remarks aimed at eliminating miscalculations and omissions in a number of national economic areas and at further strengthening mass political work and people's patriotic and international education—particularly that of young people. All these desires will unfailingly be taken into consideration in the practical work of the republic's party, soviet, and economic organs and public organizations, and they will assist in resolving many vital problems both today and in the future for the sake of our common well-being and prosperity.

'Karabakh Committee' Banned

PM081137 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 25 Mar 88 p 2

[ARMENPRESS report: "At the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] The Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, considering that the activity of the so-called "Karabakh Committee" is not in line with the Armenian SSR Constitution and existing legislation, has assumed a politically harmful nature, and opposes the interests of the people, has deemed the so-called "Karabakh Committee" to be illegal and terminated its activity.

Local Committees Disbanding

PM081139 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 25 Mar 88 p 3

[ARMENPRESS report: "They Are Ceasing Their Activity"]

[Text] The "Karabakh" committees set up in individual labor collectives in the republic in connection with events in Nagorno-Karabakh are disbanding themselves. There are reports from the localities that the committees at the Yerevan Chemical Reagents Plant, the Yerevan Young People's Theater, the Epidemiology, Virology, and Medical Parasitology Research Institute, and other collectives have already ceased their activity.

Armenia Political Theme Day

PM081337 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 25 Mar 88 p 3

[ARMENPRESS report: "Time For Resolute Actions. Political Theme Day In the Republic"]

[Text] The latest political day has been held in the republic on the subject of "M.S. Gorbachev's Appeal to the Working People and the Peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia—an Action Program To Further Strengthen the Ideas of Internationalism and Friendship Between the Peoples in People's Minds and Behavior."

Thousands of working people, whose attention was focused on questions of concern to them today linked with events in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, took part in meetings and conversations at enterprises and establishments. It was stressed everywhere that the republic's working class, peasantry, and intelligentsia unanimously approved M.S. Gorbachev's Appeal, seeing it as a concrete program for sober actions and for further strengthening the ideas of internationalism and friendship between the peoples in people's minds and behavior.

The participants in the meetings reacted with understanding to the appeals from union republic supreme soviet presidiums, which call in connection with events in Nagorno-Karabakh for the strengthening of the Soviet peoples' friendship, unity, and cohesion and for resolute steps to establish proper public order and ensure the constitutional rights and interests of Soviet citizens of various nationalities on the territory of the Azerbaijan SSR and Armenian SSR.

Representatives of labor collectives stressed that the activity of the so-called "Karabakh" committee is incompatible with the interests of our people and could under present conditions inflict great damage; therefore, they proposed that steps be taken to terminate their activity. It was noted that calls from individual irresponsible people for the rallies to continue are quite unacceptable. They could lead to undesirable and unpredictable consequences.

The "Abovyanstroy" Trust collective is renowned in the republic for its successes. It is an all-union competition winner. One of the factors in the high labor results is the strong workers' cohesion in the great multinational family of the construction workers of this young city in our republic. The latest political theme day took place in an atmosphere of sincerity and frankness at the trust. M. Muradyan, secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, spoke to the collective. The participants in the political day stressed the perpetual importance and timeliness of M.S. Gorbachev's appeal. It was pointed out that it is necessary not only to redouble the efforts of primary party organizations and all Communists to strengthen labor discipline but also to carry out educational work with people and constantly explain to them the main provisions of Lenin's nationality policy.

During frank conversations in Yerevan's Sovetskiy Rayon questions of concern to our republic's inhabitants were touched upon—questions relating to Nagorno-Karabakh and events around it. Working people expressed their anxiety in connection with the fact that there have been rumors around these events which have misled some of the public and given rise to unhealthy feelings. All this, they said, could not fail to impact on the normal tenor of life in the republic. It was pointed out at the same time that M.S. Gorbachev's Appeal to the working people of our two republics was very timely. It helped people to take a sober look at the difficulties which have cropped up and reminded them that complex questions cannot be resolved hastily by means of rallies. The participants in the meetings pointed out at the same time that the people reacted understandingly to the alarm voiced by M.S. Gorbachev in connection with the tension which has built up and are themselves doing everything to ensure that Armenia settles down again to normal labor life. It is completely logical that the so-called "Karabakh" committees, which emerged spontaneously during those days in individual labor collectives, are now disbanding.

E. Avakyan, candidate member of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Yerevan Gorispolkom, also met with the rayon's working people. During the conversations the working people raised a number of questions relating to socioeconomic development, amenity provision and tree planting in residential areas, and the improvement of transport in Sovetskiy Rayon.

The political theme day took place in an atmosphere of political activeness in multinational Araratskiy Rayon's collective and state farms, industrial enterprises, and construction organizations.

S. Artyunyan, member of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau and first deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers, visited farm orchards and fields in the villages of Pokr Vedi and Aralez and the workshops of the Kirovskiy Sovkhoz Plant. During conversations with working people various questions were touched upon concerning the further strengthening of the sacred friendship between the peoples of the USSR and the nations' further spiritual and economic development. It was noted that indeed no one has the right to drive a wedge into relations between the peoples of the USSR and their friendship, which is our inalienable asset. The task is to prevent any ill-conceived actions incited by members of the so-called "Karabakh" committee and establish a healthy businesslike atmosphere everywhere.

It was also mentioned that it is necessary to ensure big yields from all crops by making effective use of the most propitious times for agricultural work and make a worthy contribution to implementing the Food Program.

The conversation within the framework of the political theme day at the Armenian SSR Ministry of Consumer Services "Karine" Factory for the manufacture and repair of leather goods and footwear was mainly concerned with the provisions of the Appeal of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The assembled representatives of the collective gave unanimous assurances on its behalf that they realize the complexity of the moment and are joining together during the trying period with those who support Soviet internationalism and who have discovered that progress for our society and prosperity for all its members can only be ensured within the friendly family of all the USSR's peoples.

Referring to the situation which has taken shape in the republic in the last few days, they stated that the collective is keeping to its normal working rhythm. In February the enterprise produced output worth R73,000 above the plan. For the rest of the month the collective will also work highly productively and will overfulfill its plan targets.

Collective members took an active part in conversations held at Masisskiy Rayon's Hothouse Combine and the Children's Orthopedic Hospital.

They were visited by M. Artyunyan, member of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Armenian Trade Union Council. The key theme of the conversations was the task of boosting the efficiency of work to strengthen the fraternity and indestructible alliance between the peoples of the USSR.

Meetings within the framework of the political theme day were held in hundreds of other labor collectives in the republic, where leading party, soviet, and economic workers gave speeches. Ardent approval was expressed everywhere for the provisions of Comrade M.S. Gorbachev's Appeal to the working people and the peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia and people gave assurances that the working people of Soviet Armenia will cherish the very great asset of the Soviet peoples—socialist internationalism—as the apple of their eye and will work highly productively to steadfastly fulfill the tasks set by the party and restructure and renew life.

Gathering Attempted in Yerevan

PM111528 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 29 Mar 88 p 2

[Unattributed "Announcement"]

[Text] In violation of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution "On Temporary Rules for the Holding of Meetings and Other Mass Events Organized on the Initiative of Citizens in Cities and Rayons of the Republic," in defense of P. Airikyan, who has been repeatedly convicted of anti-Soviet activity and has now been arrested for slanderous fabrications discrediting the Soviet state and social system, a group of persons, mainly relatives, attempted to hold a gathering in Yerevan on 28 March.

The administrative organs adopted measures envisaged by law with regard to the violators of the procedure laid down.

CPSU Resolution Published

PM081303 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 29 Mar 88 p 1

["CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers 24 March 1988 Resolution on Measures To Accelerate the Socioeconomic Development of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1988-1995"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers note that with the fraternal assistance of all the peoples of the Soviet Union, the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast has achieved considerable successes in social and economic development; its economy has been provided with a stronger material and technical base. In the last three 5-year plans alone industrial production in the oblast has more than trebled and agricultural production has increased by 50 percent. The oblast's involvement in republican and all-union division of labor has increased substantially and integration processes are actively developing. Provision of the population with housing, hospitals, libraries, and clubs has improved.

At the same time, social production efficiency has tended to diminish of late. Plans for capital construction and commissioning of housing are not being fulfilled. The development of the sociocultural sphere falls short of the population's increasing demands. In many labor collectives discipline has deteriorated and responsibility for the fulfillment of production plans and contract pledges on goods supplies has diminished. The unsteady work of the oblast's enterprises is having an adverse effect on the state of affairs in the economy. The shortcomings are due to a weakening of the leading and organizing role of both local and republican party and soviet bodies, their slow restructuring in conditions of expanding democracy and implementation of the radical reform of economic management, and a reduction in the level of party-political work among the masses.

In order to ensure the further social and economic development of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and the elimination of the aforementioned shortcomings, the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers have resolved as follows:

1. The Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee and Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers, the Nagorno-Karabakh Azerbaijan Communist Party Obkom and Nagorno-Karabakh Oblispolkom, and other party and soviet bodies and primary party organizations in the oblast are to intensify political and organizational work on mobilizing working people to implement the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) and February (1988) Plenums and the party's course of restructuring and acceleration of socioeconomic development on the basis of utilization of the achievements of scientific-technical progress and advanced experience and intensification of social production.

The education of working people and the entire population in the spirit of internationalism, fraternal friendship, and mutual assistance should be seen as an urgent task of paramount importance and all the slightest manifestations of nationalism and lack of respect for the national feelings of representatives of the various peoples are to be resolutely eradicated.

Constant attention is to be paid to the economic and social development of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. A comprehensive program for the economic and social development of the oblast in the period up to 2005, envisaging the comprehensive development of its productive forces is to be elaborated in 1988-1989 in conjunction with the USSR Gosplan, the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, and the USSR Academy of Sciences.

It is necessary, as of 1989, to elaborate and embark on implementing a range of measures to accelerate the development of the social sphere, ensuring a 40-percent increase in the volume of housing construction in the 13th 5-Year Plan so that by the year 2000 every family has a separate apartment or its own house. It is necessary to ensure by 1995 the basic switch to one-shift teaching in general educational schools, for which 9-10 schools will have to be built.

Plans for 1989-1990 and the 13th 5-Year Plan period are to envisage the construction of an 850-seat Palace of Culture (in Stepanakert), a 400-bed oblast hospital with a clinic handling 600 patients per shift, a Pioneers' Center, a city library, and also housing and other social facilities in accordance with Appendix No 1.

2. The USSR Ministry of Communications and the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting are to elaborate in 1988 and implement in 1988-1989 a range of measures to provide the population of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and adjoining areas with high-quality all-union television broadcasts and also the transmission in that region of the full complement of Azerbaijan and Armenian television broadcasts (with the possibility of relaying local television as part of these broadcasts).

3. In line with the wishes of Armenians living in the Azerbaijan SSR, the USSR Ministry of Culture and the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers are to:

Consider the question of setting up an Armenian drama theater in Baku;

Elaborating and implementing a range of measures on further work to restore and renovate historical and cultural monuments on the territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, with a view to involving Armenian craftsmen—restoration specialists—in this work.

4. The USSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Works, and the Book Trade is to carry out in the 12th 5-Year Plan the reconstruction of printing works in Stepanakert and rayon centers of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and expand the production of literature in Armenian, with a view to providing for the needs of the oblast's populace in terms of this literature.

5. The USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation is to consider in 1989 the question of reconstructing the airport in Stepanakert (which includes fitting modern radio navigation equipment) to take larger passenger aircraft and, if necessary, submit the relevant proposals when the draft plan for the 13th 5-year Plan period is being prepared.

6. In order to improve water supplies for the population and develop irrigation farming in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources and the USSR Gosagroprom are to:

Ensure that plans are made in 1988-1990 for a reservoir on the Badarachay River with a capacity of 30 million cubic meters, to be basically constructed in the 13th 5-year Plan period, the first phase to be commissioned in 1993.

Consider the proposal on planning and constructing a reservoir of 20 million cubic meters on the Karkarchay River during the period of the the 13th and 14th 5-Year Plans and adopt the relevant decision;

Allocate to the Azerbaijan SSR Main Administration for Land Reclamation and Water Resources construction in 1988-1990 R12 million in additional centralized state capital investments to draw up planning and estimates documents and carry out preparatory work for the construction of reservoirs on the Badarachay and Karkarchay rivers, as well as the requisite material and technical resources;

Allocate to the "Azselkhozvodoprovodstroy" association the centralized state capital investments required in order to complete the construction of the Karabakh multiple [gruppovoy] water pipeline on the territory of the autonomous oblast, and also to ensure a centralized water supply for all rural population centers in the future.

The Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers is to implement in the 12th 5-Year Plan period measures to provide Stepanakert and rayon centers in the oblast with a regular water supply.

7. In order to improve food supplies for the population and ensure the processing and storage of agricultural raw materials, the USSR Gosagroprom and the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers are to ensure in 1988-1994 the construction of agro-industrial complex facilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.

8. The USSR Ministry of Grain Products is to ensure in 1989 the drawing up of planning and estimates documents and in 1990-1991 the construction of a mixed feed plant in the settlement of Askeran with a capacity of 250 tonnes of mixed feed per day.

9. In order to further improve transport services for the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers is to elaborate and approve in 1989 a scheme for the development of general-purpose highways and farm roads in the aforementioned region and set up the relevant structural subunits to ensure a 50-100 percent increase in highway construction. The reconstruction of the 75-km Goris-Lachin-Stepanakert highway is to be carried out in 1988-1990.

10. The USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification is to ensure a reliable electricity supply for production and cultural and consumer facilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and the Azerbaijan SSR Main Administraiton of Power and Electrification is to be allocated the requisite machinery and mechanisms for this purpose.

11. The USSR Ministry of the Gas Industry is to ensvisage in the 1989 plan the assignment to the "Aztransgaz" association of the task of constructing a gas branch pipeline to the settlement of Gadrut (as part of

the Fizuli-Dzhebrail gas pipeline), and of ensuring in 1989 the planning and in 1990-1991 the construction of the Mir-Bashir-Mardakert-Kelbadzhar gas branch pipeline.

When elaborating draft plans for the economic and social development of the USSR in 1989-1990 and in the 13th 5-Year Plan period the USSR Gosagroprom is to envisage the construction of gas branch pipelines and 550 km of gas supply systems in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast population centers.

12. The Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers, in conjunction with the relevant USSR ministries and departments, is to elaborate and implement a range of measures ensuring a 50-60 percent increase in industrial output in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast by the end of the 13th 5-Year Plan, including a 160 percent increase in machine building output and a 30-40 percent increase in gross agricultural production, as well as a considerable increase in the production of consumer goods and construction materials.

It is necessary to envisage allocating capital investments and contract work, and financial and material resources for this purpose and creating a modern material and technical base for repair, construction, motor transport, and highway organizations, providing them with the requisite machinery, mechanisms, and equipment.

13. In order to ensure rational employment of the population and the development of the industrial potential of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, the USSR Ministries of the Electrical Equipment Industry, of the Electronics Industry, of the Radio Industry, of Light Industry, and of Forestry Industry are to plan, construct, expand or reconstruct subsidiary enterprises and their branches in 1988-1994.

It is incumbent on the aforementioned ministries to hand over on a quota basis to the local soviets in the autonomous oblasts funds for the development of the social sphere and municipal services facilities.

The USSR Ministries of Light Industry and of the Timber Industry, to ensure that the aforementioned work is carried out by the econonoc method, are to give the Azerbaijan SSR Ministries of Light Industry and of the Timber and Wood Processing Industry assistance in 1989-1990 in terms of provision of the requisite machinery and mechanisms.

14. In order to carry out the significantly increasing volume of construction, the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers, in conjunction with the USSR Gosstroy and USSR Gosplan, is to elaborate and approve in the first half of 1988 a concrete program to develop the material and technical base of construction organizations in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast in 1989-1995, with a view to increasing the amount of construction and installation work being done in the 13th 5-Year Plan period by 80-100 percent, envisaging above all the creation of large panel housing construction capacities and also capacities for the production of prefabricated ferroconcrete structures and local construction materials.

The USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry is to allocate in 1989-1990 to the Azerbaijan SSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry stone-working machine tools and machinery and mechanisms to equip a construction materials combine in Stepanakert.

The USSR Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building and the USSR Gossnab are to ensure the manufacture and supply to the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers in 1989-1992 of 4 complete highly mechanized brick works each capable of producing 5 million bricks a year.

The USSR Gosstroy is to ensure the creation of a branch of the Azerbaijan SSR Gosstroy "Azgosproyekt" planning institute in Stepanakert in 1989.

The Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers and relevant USSR ministries and departments are authorized to carry out, as an exception, in 1988-1989, the construction of production and social facilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast in accordance with working drawings and estimates before the drafts have been duly approved.

15. In order to ensure the commencement of work on fulfilling the targets envisaged by the present resolution:

The Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers quota of centralized state capital investments is to be increased by R12.4 million, including R3.9 million for construction and installation work. The aforementioned capital investments are to come out of the USSR Council of Ministers reserve fund;

The USSR Gossnab, the USSR Gosagroprom, and the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources is to place additional material and technical resources at the disposal of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers in 1988 for the needs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.

16. The USSR Gosplan is to provide for state capital investments for the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers from all sources of finance and material resources in 1989-1990 in excess of the 5-year plan targets and, in the calculations for the 13th 5-Year Plan, in amounts ensuring the fulfillment of the targets envisaged by the present resolution.

17. The USSR State Committee for People's Education, the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers, and the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers are to ensure the elaboration and implementation of joint organizational-pedagogical and methodological measures to improve work

in schools where teaching is in Armenian and which are situated in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and also in other parts of the Azerbaijan SSR.

18. Starting in 1988, the USSR State Committee for Public Education, in conjunction with the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers and Armenian SSR Council of Ministers, is to envisage in plans for the training of specialists on a shared basis, the allotment of places in VUZ's in the Armenian SSR specifically for people living in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.

19. In order to improve the quality of training of specialists with higher education and satisfy more fully the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast's need for highly skilled cadres, the USSR State Committee for Public Education and the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers are to elaborate and implement measures to accelerate the development of the material and technical base of the Stepanakert Pedagogical Institute and fit it out with modern technical training facilities and the requisite laboratory training equipment and computers.

20. In connection with the wish of citizens living in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast to see the names of institutions and organizations inscribed in Armenian, the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers is instructed to consider and resolve this issue.

21. The Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers, Nagorno-Karabakh Azerbaijan Communist Party Obkom, and Nagorno-Karabakh Oblispolkom are to:

Gear the organizational and political work of party, soviet, and economic bodies and trade union and Komsomol organizations to fulfilling the targets envisaged by the present resolution and focus working people's efforts primarily on the solution of economic and social tasks, making all-around use of the rights granted to local soviets in the planning and management of the oblast economy;

Every effort is to be made to develop the initiative and creative activity of working people and actively support their desire to respond with practical deeds to the CPSU call to accelerate and deepen restructuring, improve the work style, develop criticism and self-criticism, and ensure extensive glasnost in the solving questions of economic and social development.

The mass news and propaganda media are to provide regular and multifaceted coverage of problems of the region's social and economic development, thoroughly analyze the course of fulfillment of plan targets, generalize the experience of real restructuring, and propagandize modern methods of management and improvement of labor efficiency.

The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers express firm confidence that the Communists and all the working people of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of the Azerbaijan SSR will display political maturity and an appreciation of the crucial nature of the moment and will demonstrate cohesion and a high degree of organization. It is the duty of the oblast's labor collectives to strengthen the friendship of the Armenian, Azerbaijani, and other peoples of our country and direct all efforts toward eliminating the lag that has developed and unconditionally fulfilling the plans for 1988 and for the 12th 5-Year Plan as a whole.

M. Gorbachev, secretary [as published] of the CPSU Central Committee, and N. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Karabakh Development Discussed

NC120814 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1600 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] (?Sadyrov), deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply's Material Resources and Reserves Department, has said the following to TASS:

We have studied all the orders our colleagues in Baku filed on a single day in March for tools and metal construction materials. We have not encountered any difficulty in determining the (?volume) and type of reserves that are needed. The USSR ministries, main administrations, and establishments are actively contributing toward the effort made by Nagorno-Karabakh to realize its social and economic development program. The USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply is also contributing toward this effort. The committee has allocated an additional R5.8 million worth of material and technical resources and technical equipment for Nagorno-Karabakh. This will help the autonomous oblast's workers fulfill their tasks more successfully.

A complex of wide-ranging measures have been drawn up to spur the social and economic development of the Azerbaijan SSR Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast from 1988 to 1995 in accordance with the decisions adopted by the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the CPSU Central Committee Politburo on 24 March. The measures are aimed at consolidating the material and technical basis of the social domain and further improving the structure of the work of the oblast's productive forces. The volume of work in the main construction domain in the oblast is being increased. Industrial and agricultural facilities and residential buildings are being constructed. Meanwhile, cultural and health services establishments will be set up. Plans have been made to construct dams on the [name indistinct] and (Gargar) Rivers, and to lay new pipelines for water supply in Nagorno-Karabakh. All the rural workers will benefit from the centralized water supply network in the future.

Plans have also been drawn up to restructure transportation establishments and reconstruct power supply units. Meanwhile, the volume of highway construction will be doubled. A better effort will be made to meet the oblast's needs for combustibles.

The volume of technical equipment and material resources that have been allocated for Nagorno-Karabakh is so great that it will facilitate the construction of buildings for social and daily services and economic establishments. It is common knowledge that plans have been made to increase industrial production by more than 1.5 times by setting up new establishments and by restructuring existing establishments, as well as by supplying new technical equipment to them, by the end of the 12th 5-Year Plan period.

Vehicles, machinery, buses, mobile cranes, bulldozers, excavators, and special construction equipment will be supplied to Nagorno-Karabakh. Meanwhile, a large consignment of combustibles, including fuel, diesel fuel, and [words indistinct], has been allocated for Nagorno-Karabakh.

'Mailbag' Addresses Ethnic Minorities Situation

LD101111 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 9 Apr 88

[From the "Moscow Mailbag" program with Joe Adamov]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Next question from Kim Postukov of Santa Cruz, California: How are different ethnic groups treated?

[Adamov] Ha, someone of Russian origin, I feel. Well we have all along, you know, been saying that the nationalities problem has been fully solved in our country, but judging by some of the eruptions that have taken place of late, it has not been fully solved. It seems that ethnic feelings, ethnic pride, may at times take on, well, even a chauvinistic coloring, and ethnic feelings, national feelings, are very long lived. But I still will insist that by and large, except for a few exceptions, I think our treatment of our ethnic groups has been fair, has been correct. [passage omitted]

In Nagorno-Karabakh, a region populated mainly by Armenians, the cultural and ethnic demands, their ethnic rights, have been grossly violated. They've been violated by the local bureaucrats, let's not deny it. Now things are being set right, hundreds of millions [currency not specified] are being allocated to right things, to right the wrong that was done. Of course, had this not taken place, had these violations of ethnic rights rights not taken place, the demonstrations and some of the violence could have been avoided, had the people's cultural demands been met, like they are in most other places.

Writer Said Fabricating Ethnic Friction Stories

PM060903 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 88 p 4

[PIONERSKAYA PRAVDA own correspondent F. Kamalov and TASS correspondent Yu. Kruzhilin "Rejoinder": "Writer Acts Against His Conscience"]

[Text] Tashkent—Well-known writer Timur Pulatov went up to the rostrum illuminated by television lights and accompanied by the whir of cameras and said:

"The central newspapers, especially KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, prejudiced public opinion and the attitude to the Uzbek people to such an extent that a group of Uzbek children at the 'Orlenok' Pioneer Camp were shunned by their classmates, who told them: 'You are the children of thieves and bribetakers, go back where you came from.' The children had to be sent back to Tashkent."

The surprised question followed from the presidium of the session of the USSR Union of Writers Council on Children's Literature (held 30 March in the Tashkent House of Writers): "From our Russian 'Orlenok'?" Without wasting a second, Comrade Pulatov countered: "Yes, from your Russian 'Orlenok' not from ours."

"What can you say about the event described by Comrade Pulatov?" we asked people at the Uzbek SSR Republic Pioneer Organization Council. Yuriy Bark, the council's senior secretary said:

"No such thing happened. The Uzbek group—91 pupils aged from fifth to eighth grades—left for the shores of the Black Sea 27 February and returned with its full complement 28 March. The group included chidren of Uzbek, Russian, Korean, and other nationalities. They were all delighted with 'Orlenok'."

Nigora Irgasheva, a teacher at Tashkent School No 15, said the following: "Everything was splendid. I will never forget 'Orlenok' and my friends. We intend to meet next year in Minsk. If only it were sooner!"

So, we will consider the "fact of the early departure" of Uzbek Pioneers from the all-Russian camp cleared up. It still remains to recall certain recent facts.

An article in MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI (No 14) talks, as if it were a fait accompli, of the upcoming "resettlement of the Karakalpak people" from the lower reaches of the Amu Darya in connection with the drying up of the Aral Sea. The author of the interview is Timur Pulatov.

Even before that a speaker stated at an open party meeting in the Uzbek Union of Writers: The republic's high birth rate is caused by the fact that the "the people are protecting themselves against extermination." This speaker was Timur Pulatov.

Why has a well known writer, to put it mildly, bent the truth so consistently? It seems that now that the difficult problems of interethnic relations have attracted close scrutiny, some people are not averse to turning this interest to their own advantage and are not very fastidious about their choice of means. But emotions of this sort are far removed from the truth. Articles by central newspapers and the republic's local press disclosing recent crimes have been perceived by millions of people in Uzbekistan as part of a great purification process and a sign of the normalization of our society based on democratization and glasnost.

Glasnost is respect for another's viewpoint. But let us call a spade a spade: In this case it is a question not of viewpoints but of a deliberately disseminated untruth.

Editors Discuss CPSU's 'Innovative Approach'

AU111316 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
8 Apr 88 p 6

[Interview with Naily Bikkenin, chief editor of KOMMUNIST, and Otto Latsis and Vladimir Kadulin, members of KOMMUNIST editorial board, by Lubor Kazda and Vladimir Jancura, Moscow correspondents of RUDE PRAVO and Bratislava PRAVDA: "We Are Going Back to Lenin Again"; date and place not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Excerpts] The preparations for the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference, which will convene on 28 June, have prompted an extensive discussion and a lively exchange of views in Soviet society, from which it can be seen that, among other things, in the course of restructuring the party of Soviet Communists faces ever newer issues—and the answer to them is not always readily available. This CPSU's innovative approach is the content of the second discussion with Comrade Naily Bikkenin, chief editor of KOMMUNIST, the CPSU Central Committee's theoretical and political journal. The first part of the discussion was published on 25 March. Today's discussion also included the members of the editorial board Otto Latsis (specialist on economic problems) and Vladimir Kadulin (expert on issues connected with the buildup of the party).

[Correspondents] The restructuring permeates everything that is happening. Thus is it proper also to speak about restructuring in the CPSU itself?

[Bikkenin] It certainly is concerning the restructuring of its activity. In the past 3 years one could see the change in the style of the party committees' work, in their approach to the solution of "traditional" and new tasks of an economic and social nature. The forms and methods of ideological, cadre, and organizational work of the party components are changing. The increased supply of oxygen in the form of democratization and a policy of openness provides new stimuli for inner-party life. The atmosphere in the party has taken a course toward new quality and, at the same time, it is cleansing the atmosphere of the entire society. The mutual cooperation and activity of the party and society are acquiring new aspects—a lively, multifaceted process is developing, which, naturally, also contains various conflicts and problems.

[Kadulin] In our country the party is really responsible for everything. That is precisely why it is so important that the restructuring yields, within the framework of the Soviet political system, a clearer "division of labor" between the party, trade unions, Komsomol, and other social organizations, so that the functions, powers, and limits of the independence of all institutions, components, and structures of our system are not only clearly and accurately delineated, but—at the same time—also ensured and strengthened by appropriate democratic procedures. Only in this way can we remove the sediments of the previous deformations, which are an obstacle to creativity.

What is involved, then, is to restructure on Leninist principles the system of relations among the state, the party, and other social institutions. I stress: In this it is necessary to consistently keep on returning to Lenin, relying on his legacy. What does this mean specifically? Above all, getting rid of what Vladimir Lenin called "communist decree-issuing." [passage omitted]

[Correspondents] The Soviet press—and KOMMUNIST is no exception—often focuses critically on the surviving practices of interference by party bodies in the powers of economic bodies, and of their taking over their functions. Is it not a contradiction when at the same time one writes about the need to further strengthen the party's influence in the development of the economy?

[Bikkenin] It is as clear as daylight that restructuring calls for a change, if you like, it calls for the restructuring of the current ways and methods by which the party manages the economy. When this task is being discussed, we frequently come across two extreme positions—first, underestimation of the linkage between politics and the economy on the one hand, and the ideas about the universal effectiveness of the instruments of economic accountability on the other, and second, attempts to preserve the previous style of petty bossing, administrative interference by party bodies in the operational organizational activity and powers of ranking economic personnel. It is obvious that both approaches are one-sided, incorrect, and unacceptable.

[Latsis] In the present period of transition, when the old and new economic mechanism must "coexist" for some time, the role of the party bodies in the management of the economy is particularly complex and responsible. That does not mean that political workers must continue to "box through" the often unjustified demands of enterprises for adequate investments and wage battles for more railroad cars, for allocations of cement or parts that are in short supply, as, unfortunately, until recently used to be a general and normal phenomenon. There are a number of similar things that exist even today in the practice of a number of regional party bodies, which are—as a result—drowning in day-to-day economic management instead of putting their energy into asserting new methods of management. That, of course, requires a profound knowledge of concrete economics, qualifications, and strong political will and resolutions as well. [passage omitted]

[Correspondents] Recently the issue of the party's self-cleansing ability has cropped up fairly often—especially in connection with the fact that some party organizations continue to take a "free-ride" in the current of change instead of being the catalysts, the initiators of change, as Mikhail Gorbachev has noted several times.

[Bikkenin] As you know, today the main criterion for the assessment of every party member, regardless of his position, is his attitude to restructuring, his practical involvement in tasks that arise from it. Whoever does not match up to them, and all the more so whoever retards them or even tries to build a barrier to the current of restructuring, must bear the consequences, including extreme, that is, disciplinary and cadre consequences. Effective forms and levers that ensure the party's self-cleansing as one of the instances of strengthening its action ability and the implementation of its role as the vanguard of society, can be found and practically tested only on the basis of constantly deepening intraparty democracy and developing public information, criticism, self-criticism, and the like. This, at the same time, protests the party against the return of those methods of "cleansing" its ranks that affected us so tragically during the period of Stalin's personality cult, when the state's repressive power bodies were involved in the solution of innerparty conflicts. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Journal Covers More Topics

LD091053 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1402 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr (TASS)—"Glasnost in the sphere of Soviet foreign policy is taking on increasingly concrete and visible features," Boris Pyadyshev, a member of the USSR Foreign Ministry Collegium and editor in chief of the journal MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN [INTERNATIONAL LIFE] said today in an interview with a TASS diplomatic correspondent. "This is a direct reflection of the fact that we have nothing to hide—Mikhail Gorbachev's policy pursues lofty and humane goals and is leading mankind toward a nonnuclear world.

"The Soviet leadership consciously strives for glasnost in the conduct of its foreign policy," Boris Pyadyshev continued. "After all, the more the world knows about us, and the more predictable our policy is, the greater will be the trust that the world public places in it."

The April issue of MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN, B. Pyadyshev continued, has a considerably wider range of topics. A number of new sections have appeared. Readers are able to find, for example, an article entitled "In the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs on the Eve of the War" or a publication by Nikolay Bukharin in the U.S. magazine "FOREIGN AFFAIRS," which is published in Russian for the first time. The "Arcade" section gives an account of a discussion held in the editorial office among leading experts on such topical problems as "the new world realities," "the prestige and might of a state," and "new thinking against political stagnation."

MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN has always tried to provide opinions and conclusions of substance. On the pages of our magazine now the reader will find a juxtaposition of views on various topical problems and discussion materials in which the authors express their own personal attitudes.

"The editorial staff is trying to orient the magazine more fully toward the key directions of Soviet and world foreign policy and diplomacy," the section 'Editor's Page' says. "Taking that as our starting point, we will try to publish more articles tackling specific problems and discussion articles that analyze trends and processes taking place in international life." Such are the aims of MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN, which are dictated by the time we live in, B. Pyadyshev said.

RSFSR Paper Views 'Slanderer' Podrabinek

PM011015 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 27 Mar 88 First Edition p 5

[S. Sergeyev article: "Werewolves Don't Like Light. About Someone Who Deals In Slander Against Our Country"]

[Text] Maybe some SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA readers will still remember the name A. Podrabinek. He was referred to as an activist in the so-called "Political Prisoners' Aid Fund" created by Western special services as a screen for subversive antistate operations. This article was published 1 year ago (see SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, 15 March 1987).

The readers' mailbag at the time brought many letters to the editorial office. In most of them people denounced with pain and anger those in foreign pay dealing in slander against their country. But there were also letters in which readers proposed that scarce newspaper space not be sullied with portraits of paid liars.

This viewpoint is understandable: It is engendered by common decency. But I cannot agree with it. Here is why. Someone correctly noted that truth was the first and main victim of the psychological war against the Soviet Union. And it is not merely a case of moral assessments here. "Constant distortion and simplification of the Soviet Union, systematic dehumanization of the great country, and monotonous misinterpretation of the nature of a great people," this, according to G. Kennan, the well known U.S. scholar and diplomat, is in itself a crime. But the point is that all this serves today to justify the strong-arm nuclear policy aimed against our country and impedes the restructuring of relations between countries with different social systems in the spirit of cooperation. It is also a grave crime against humanity irrespective of the precise legal definition of such actions.

People like Aleksandr Pinkhosovich Podrabinek are in many ways assuming the task of supplying raw material for the distortion and dehumanization mentioned by G. Kennan, in short, for the creation of the "enemy image" of the USSR in the West. That is why we need to recognize such people.

A. Podrabinek is 35 years old but his biography is so convoluted that people in the West who have read or heard about him may think that he is twice as old. He was born in Moscow and trained as a medical assistant, but this work never caught his interest, as, indeed, no work ever did. Podrabinek developed a superiority complex from his inordinate ambitions coupled with an equal degree of laziness. From the age of 20 he saw himself as some kind of international platform and thought that the whole world should listen to his grumbling—it started off as grumbling—with bated breath.

Podrabinek began by sending to the West a great deal of deliberately libellous (there is absolute authentic proof of this) material about the use of psychiatry in the USSR for political purposes, that is, allegedly to suppress dissidents. This falsehood is turned to account to this day. In 1977 a London publishing house published the book "Russia's Political Clinics" by Peter Reddauz [surname as published], an anticommunist. A large proportion of the evil lies therein come from A. Podrabinek's fevered imagination.

It was no big deal for a man unburdened by conscience to concoct such lies. It was at that time that terrible facts about the "treatment" of U.S. political prisoners with strong psychotropic preparations were made known. A number of major scandals broke in Britain, Italy, and other countries associated with the committal to psychiatric clinics of people known to be healthy and of their abuse by personnel.

There is no doubt that the slander was not unmotivated by self-interest. British scientist Vic Allek [name as published], a Leeds University professor, recently published a book in which he describes, inter alia, Western propaganda exploitation of dissidents. According to him, the preparation of anti-Soviet material for subsequent use by the mass media became big business in the early seventies, providing good pickings for those involved.

In any case it is well known that Podrabinek, after being condemned in 1978 to 5 years exile for systematic preparation and circulation of slanderous lampoons discrediting our country, immediately became a beneficiary of the "Political Prisoners' Aid Fund," receiving R250-300 monthly from it. He was allocated, with the consent of the fund's foreign masters, R8,000 as a one-off grant to buy a house.

Podrabinek has also done well for himself now. Until recently he was employed in Vladimir Oblast's Kolchugino ambulance service. But he devoted the lion's share of his time to the pursuits for the court had indicted him. Even now his name can be glimpsed in Western newspapers and in the "voices" broadcasts in connection with various "actions" and "revelations."

But there is one peculiarity in Podrabinek's chosen profession. Characters retire from the scene quite rapidly there. The monotony of disinformation demands new names all the time and phony, nonexistent sensations. That is why Podrabinek cast caution to the winds. He scribbles slander about the suppression in our country of charitable activity, waxes lyrical in defense of Crimean Tatars, and continues to produce assessments of Soviet medicine and policy in the sphere of international relations.

However, all this seems petty and Podrabinek himself understands that. What about publishing an independent magazine or newspaper! Say what you like, but the title of editor and publisher sounds respectable, especially if you never see these "publications." Here it is ready: Aleksandr Podrabinek is the editor in chief (!) and publisher of an "express chronicle."

What is it? Several leaflets describing his own activity and that of his friends from groups which have already been described or which have emerged recently. What is it like? Libellous as before.

Here is the seventh issue of the "express chronicle." It contains the latest sensation. It turns out that Ivan Nikolayevich Pankratchenko has been arrested in Voronezh Oblast for delivering a speech "calling for the overthrow of the regime." No more, no less.

Everything then develops according to the usual scenario. Radio voices speak out on behalf of I.N. Pankratchenko who has suffered for freedom of thought. Letters from a certain international human rights society in Frankfurt-am-Main rush to his defense. The anti-Soviet propaganda machine is picking up speed.

Everything as per normal. It is also, perhaps, normal that I.N. Pankratchenko has not been arrested by anyone during these months either in Voronezh Oblast or in any other oblast and has not been convicted by any court in our country. But this time A. Podrabinek does not take the "credit" for inventing the trial of an innocent victim. The "canard" came flying to him from another apology for a "publication" entitled "News from the USSR" published by another "editor in chief," Kronid Arkadyevich Lyubarskiy, yet another participant in the "democrats movement," a native of the city of Pskov who left for Israel in 1977, but who settled in Munich close to Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe. He was the first to invent the "case" of I.N. Pankratchenko. I must point out one detail: Both Podrabinek and Lyubarskiy report that in the past Pankratchenko was an officer in Vlasov's army. Evidently the political sympathies of the customers are being taken into consideration. But the identity of the writers is also clear.

...People say that ghosts do not cast a shadow and are afraid of sunlight. People like Podrabinek are also ghosts of a kind. They belong to the past. Notably the past in East-West relations, where they were small change in large anti-Soviet stakes. This does not mean that they have lost their venom and become safe and that we can no longer pay attention to them. It is merely that the light of truth and true facts is deadly when it unmasks them. In the presence of such light they will only evoke disgusted surprise—both in our country and in the West.

Military

Popov on Countering Law Violations in Army

PM121539 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 88 Second Edition p 6

[PRAVDA "Military Desk" report under the rubric "Serving the Soviet Union": "Judges in Uniform"]

[Text] A news conference organized by the USSR Journalists' Union's military section has been held at the Main Military Prosecutor's Office.

For a long time—too long, no doubt—we have known little about the activity of the "Judges in Uniform" whose job it is to keep a strict eye on the law in our Armed Forces. We have believed and continue to believe that its shield is reliably protecting us from tyranny and injustice and its sword is ever ready to punish those who break our laws. True, there has been a growing number of materials in the press lately about negative facts and phenomena in the activities of law-enforcement bodies and even in their inner sanctum—the USSR Prosecutor's Office. Now the thick veil shrouding the face of the military judiciary has been lifted somewhat.

Main Military Prosecutor Lieutenant General of Justice B. Popov talked at the meeting with journalists about the problems the military legal service is having to tackle today—in conditions of the struggle for glasnost, democracy, and social justice—in the Army and Navy. Then some eminent military lawyers answered numerous questions from the journalists.

What was discussed? What painful areas and ills has restructuring revealed in our Armed Forces?

It would be naive to think that the Army and Navy—the people's flesh and blood—could escape all the bad and negative features that affected society in the stagnation period, as we now call it. On the contrary, because of the specific conditions whereby, in the guise of maintaining state and military secrecy, practically all spheres of the Army organism's activity were closed to monitoring and criticism, the situation was aggravated in some places.

In the first 2 months of this year alone R2.5 million have been recovered from officials for various abuses. It was noted that in some units and subunits irresponsibile attitudes have become established, violations of laws and military regulations by commanders and political workers have become commonplace, there has been a relatively large number of cases of evasion of military service (there was even mention of instances where soldiers and sergeants rent private apartments for themselves), theft of and damage to military property are rife, and combat readiness is suffering greatly because soldiers and cadets are going off to do a variety of economic work outside the units. Hazing ["dedovshchina"] can no longer be tolerated.

There was specific talk about crime in the Armed Forces—yes, it does exist, and it cannot be ignored. We have got used to the idea of someone in military uniform primarily as our defender. Many examples can be cited of soldiers and officers performing noble deeds—saving people, detaining dangerous criminals. So it is that much more intolerable when someone in military uniform resorts to murder or violence.

The following question was also raised at the meeting with the military jurists: Why are illegally dismissed officers not restored to the cadre ranks? Why is it that our labor legislation does not apply to the military in this case?

At the end of the meeting Lt Gen B. Popov spoke of the most important avenues mapped out by the Main Military Prosecutor's Office for its work in the new conditions.

"Naturally," Boris Sergeyevich said, "attention will remain focused mainly on prosecutor's office supervision of the application of laws affecting the combat readiness of the Armed Forces in the economic and social sphere of the Army and Navy, and, finally, on cadre work in our service. We are now mercilessly ridding ourselves of bribe-takers among prosecutors and investigators, of drunkards and those prosecutor's office workers who close their eyes to breaches of the law.

"We military prosecutors," the main military prosecutor said, "also see ourselves as ideological workers because we are also struggling for society's purity, against all sorts of ugly phenomena, against individuals who deform our life. Let us struggle together. I am confident that our pooled efforts will yield good fruit."